

St Paul's Primary School

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

September 2015

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher and chair of Governors. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the school website and via Heart FM radio station (102.2 FM), including their website, www.heart.co.uk/wiltshire, detailing closed schools.
2. The school will inform parents via the school text message service – teachers2parents. Parents are automatically included in the text message service providing their contact details are up-to-date. The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website – www.st-pauls.wilts.sch.uk and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is registered as authorised absence. In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, Children, Staff and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In snow and icy conditions wide pathways will be created as follows:

1. From the front gate to the front door
2. From the front gate to the artroom door
3. From the front gate to the KS1 playground to access the door to the right side of Brunel Class
4. From the back gate to the front door, artroom and KS1 playground

The school will salt particularly hazardous areas of the school site.

All staff will be made aware that the car park will not be cleared of ice and snow and that due care must be taken at all times.

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as safe as possible throughout the day.

During adverse weather conditions parents are kindly requested not to bring their children to school until the start of the school day at 8.40am.

In the Head Teacher's absence the Deputy headteacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.