



Billinge St Aidan's C of E
Primary School

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

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 in consultation with The 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 St Helens Council Website www.sthelens.gov.uk/schoolclosures
The media (WISH FM) will then broadcast details
2. Parents who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using our text service activated by the Head Teacher once the closure has been logged with St Helens Council.

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible, and we will intend to reopen as soon as we can.

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 considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are expected to check the website 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's absence being marked as un-authorised.

Where the school is officially closed this will be marked as an enforced closure so this will not have any effect on pupils' attendance figure.

In the event of the school having to close to during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by text 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 and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before the start of the school day and at home time, parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

- 1) To the main office
- 2) To the entrances for Y5/6

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

During significant adverse weather conditions teachers will open classrooms doors as close to 8.45am as possible to allow pupil and parents to take shelter. Parents may be required to supervise until the staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.