



## Woolhampton Church of England Primary School

### Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Category:		Non-Statutory
Last Modified:	November 2011	
Review Date:	November 2016	
Reviewed by:	Communications Committee	
Approved by:	Governing Body	
When monitoring and reviewing we ensure compliance with the school's Race, Equal Opportunities and Disability Equality Scheme		

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. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are considered to put the health and safety of pupils and staff at risk.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. Information will be posted on the Home Page of the school website – this is the definitive information source.
2. The closure will be recorded on the West Berkshire County Council Website. This information will be displayed to the public via the Current Service Status page on the WBC website: <http://www.westberks.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=19107>. The media (BBC Radio Berkshire 95.4FM and Heart FM 102.FM) will also be informed of the closure, although parents are advised that information is not always broadcast immediately.

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 and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

During adverse weather conditions parents who arrive at school are advised to check with a member of staff on site that the school is operating normally.

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 risk their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted 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 (it is vital that the school holds up-to-date contact details). 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 should be aware that pathways, even when cleared, may remain dangerous. Children will be reminded of this in assembly.

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.

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