



Stillness Junior School

Adverse Weather and Exceptional Circumstances Policy

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| Date of Policy: | November 2020 | Approved by: |
| Renewal Date: | November 2022 | Full Governing Body |

Introduction

The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school will be made by the headteacher in consultation with the Head of the Infants school. 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 dangerous.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts

Actions for parents

When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:-

- Checking the school website: stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk
- Checking their emails for correspondence from the school

If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult, parents should ring or email admin@stillnessjs.lewisham.sch.uk to advise that they are likely to be late.

If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

Actions for the School

The Headteacher and Premises Manager will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there.

If they decide the school will close, we will update the school website accordingly and send a text message to staff and parents advising them of the closure and advising when work will be loaded onto Google Classroom.

It is important for Parents to check the website in case the text system is slow due to the number of schools trying to use it.

The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

Exceptional Circumstances

The school recognises that there may be cases where families are “cut off” due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live.

In such cases parents should advise the headteacher of their particular circumstances so she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day.

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the headteacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

The office will contact parents and ask that they pick their child/ren up from school as soon as possible.

The staff that live furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

If a parent rings requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the headteacher.

Google Classroom

If the decision has been made to close the school, sufficient work will be uploaded onto Google Classroom for the children to access. This work will be acknowledged and uploaded by the class teacher daily, as mentioned in our remote learning policy.