



Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Iver Heath Junior School

Introduction

- The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.
- The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher. 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 to travel.
- In the absence of the Head Teacher decisions regarding opening and closure will be made by the Deputy Head Teacher.

In the Event of Adverse Weather Before the School Day Starts:

The School

- The Head Teacher will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there, communication from Buckinghamshire Council and consultation with the school leadership team and Iver Heath Junior School.
- If the decision is made to close the school, a message will be sent, via text, to staff and parents advising them of the closure by 7.00am.
- A 'banner' will be uploaded to the school website (home page) confirming if the school is closed when the weather may give rise to uncertainty.
- The School fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

Parents

- If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult, parents should ring the school, if safe to do so, 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 Head Teacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.
- A 'banner' will be uploaded to the school website (home page) confirming if the school is closed when the weather may give rise to uncertainty. Parents are requested to check for confirmation on the website before calling to the school to confirm.

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 circumstances parents should advise the school of their particular circumstances in order for any absence to be authorised.

In the event of adverse weather during the school day

- If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Head Teacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school, based on DfE guidance and consideration for the health, safety and wellbeing of children, staff and parents using the school site.
- The School Office will contact parents by text message and email and, if necessary telephone, and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

- The staff who live furthest from the school, or have the most potentially challenging commute, will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity, bearing in mind pupil:adult ratios.
- A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected, including at least one Designated Safeguarding Lead and qualified First Aider.
- 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, the Head Teacher will decide how any absence will be recorded.

Learning

- In the event of school closure due to snowfall, we would encourage the children have time to explore and enjoy the experience of snow (building snowmen, snowballs etc) in a safe environment, where they can change clothes and warm up afterwards.
- Children are also encouraged to complete their usual daily/weekly home learning: reading, spellings and TTRs.
- Children are also encouraged to complete activities of their choice on Purple Mash.

Impact of Adverse Weather during the school day (not requiring closure)

Morning Break

If the weather affects the children's ability to have outdoor play:

- Usual wet-play arrangements will be in place, where children will be supervised in classrooms.
- Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the 'wet break' will take a break once lessons have resumed.

Lunchtime

If the weather affects the usual lunchtime routine:

- Usual wet-play arrangements will be in place, where children will be supervised in their classrooms or in the hall.

Equality & Disability Access Implications

Consideration will be given to any children who may need additional provision based on their specific needs and any potential impact of the weather conditions on their ability to get to school and/or around the school site.