Adverse Weather and Facilities Failure Policy

Aim:
As a school we will make every effort to remain open wherever possible. The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher, but in the event of their absence this will fall to a member of the Senior Leadership team (SLT) in discussion with the Head.

Rationale behind closing the school:
- Insufficient staff are able to get to work to ensure the safe running of the school
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.
- Sometimes a partial closure may result depending on a facility failure e.g. heating/power

Parents Will:
In the event of heavy snow or heavy rain (causing flooding) or any other extreme weather conditions before the school day parents will need to check the:

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/closures

School will also text parents as soon as a decision to close the school site has been made. This is to try and allow parents to put in place alternative child care provision. Parents are encouraged to use the school closure website though as the text service could take longer to get the message through due to the weather conditions. Closing the school is not a decision we take lightly and serious consideration is given to this.
The school closure system will also automatically update the @Glos_schools feed where the alerts will come through of the schools closed.

In the event of extreme weather conditions through the course of the school day, the Head teacher or a member of the SLT in their absence will make the decision to close the school. Parents will be alerted through the text system.

If a parent rings requesting to pick a child up early due to severe weather conditions and a decision has not been taken to close, the Head teacher or a member of the SLT will make this decision on an individual basis.

Staff who live furthest from school will be able to leave as soon as it is possible for them.

A skeleton staff will remain on site until all the children have been collected.

**Site Management**

In the event of any adverse weather conditions (snow/rain/wind) the site will be managed to ensure as little risk to children, staff, parents and visitors is there as possible:

- Grit/salt may be used on the site in the event of snow or ice
- All people using the site must keep to the gritted pathways
- Areas of the site may be cordoned off to ensure that they are not entered into (people who go through barriers put themselves at risk)
- If wind speeds are over 30mph children will be kept to playing on the playground and not the field or Infant Green.
- If flooding occurs on site children will be taken in to the building through the most accessible door (e.g. through the Infant library)
• SLT and the Site Manager will make a judgment call as to the site conditions for playtimes and lunchtimes as to whether the children can go out or not

Adverse weather conditions at the start of the school day (torrential rain/heavy snow) Infants

If it is extremely wet Infant children will be allowed into their classrooms from 8:40am. Parents must bring the children onto the Infant playground and access the classroom as normal.

If the pathway is flooded then the children will need to be dropped at the library entrance. School staff will be there to take the children to the classrooms. Therefore parents do not need to wait.

Adverse weather conditions at the start of the school day (torrential rain/heavy snow) – juniors

If it is extremely wet junior children will be allowed into their classrooms from 8:40am. The gate will be open at this time and children are to walk round and access their classrooms as normal.

If there is any flooding then children will enter school through the main entrance.

Adverse weather conditions at the end of the school day (torrential rain/heavy snow) Infants

If the playground is flooded/covered in heavy snow then the following will happen:

• 2 x Reception classes and 1 x Y2 class will exit via the Nature area door. A class at a time will be released – please be patient.
• 2 x Y1 and 1 x Y2 class will be released from the Infant Library. A class at a time will be released – please be patient.
Adverse weather conditions at the end of the school day (torrential rain/heavy snow) Infants

- All junior classes will be brought through the main Reception entrance – this may take some time, please be patient.