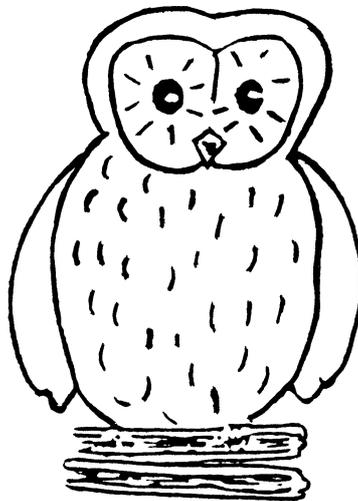


Overstone Primary School



Adverse Weather Policy

Reviewed and approved by Resources Committee on 20th September 2017
To be ratified by the full governing body at their meeting on 4th October 2017
Due for Annual Review in September/October 2018

At Overstone Primary School we have a clear understanding of how children learn and continually strive to provide the best possible conditions to facilitate this. We acknowledge that we live in a changing world and that we need to prepare our children for tomorrow's needs. Consequently we not only place value on the key skills of reading, writing, oral communication and mathematical understanding, but also on developing skills for life in modern Britain. We aim to deliver a world class curriculum that will challenge and inspire all our pupils and prepare them for the future.

We have three overall aims that pupils will become:

- Successful learners who achieve and enjoy learning
- Confident individuals who can live safe and healthy lives
- Responsible citizens who make a positive contribution to society and achieve economic well-being.

Rationale

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The school may be closed if insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely. The decision to close might also be taken where conditions on site are dangerous, or where weather conditions are advised to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

Procedures

If the school is to close,

1. The closure will be recorded on the Northamptonshire County Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the NCC website:

<http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/children-families-education/schools-and-education/Pages/school-closures.aspx>

The media (BBC Radio Northampton 104.2/ 103.60 FM and Heart 96.6 FM) will then broadcast details.

2. The closure will be recorded on the schools own website
www.overstoneprimaryschool.org.uk

Where possible a message will be recorded on the schools answer phone and a notice placed outside the School Gates.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed about the situation at school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents.

If parents have a reasonable expectation that the adverse weather conditions might cause the school to be closed, they should contact the school before setting out, even if that creates a slight delay in arrival. 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 prevent the child coming into school, risk their child being registered as an un-authorized 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. 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 and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

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

- A) from the front gate to the front door
- B) from the front gate to the link corridor main doors
- C) from the back door of the new block to the car park

Essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible, where necessary, throughout the day. On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained by the caretaker where possible during snow and icy weather so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent the build-up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the school will be open from 8.30am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance, and report to the office before taking themselves and their child into the hall. If the hall is in use then parents will deliver their child to the classroom. Parents are expected to supervise their children until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. Staff will endeavour to be in position to take over supervision of the children by 8.45am. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately as soon as the staff have taken over.

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 is 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.