

LEYS FARM JUNIOR SCHOOL

Adverse Weather Conditions Policy 2021

1.0 Introduction

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

1.2 The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher. The school will be closed only 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.

2.0 In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts

2.1 Parents

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

- Receiving a text message from school
- Checking the school website
- Listening to BBC Radio Humberside (95.9) or Lincs FM (102.2)

2.1.2 If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult, parents should ring the school to advise that they are likely to be late.

2.1.3 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.

2.2 The School

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

2.2.2 If the Headteacher decides the school will close, the school website will be updated accordingly and a text message will be sent to staff and parents advising them of the closure. The radio stations will also be informed.

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

3.0 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

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

3.2 The Office will contact parents by text and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

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

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

3.5 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.

Reviewed: March 2021

Appendix: Risk considerations

Adverse Weather Policy

Appendix

Risk Considerations

- How severe is the weather based on our previous experience?
- Can I get to school safely and if not can my deputy and other senior staff?
Will there be appropriate experience to manage safeguarding and health and safety on site including qualified first aiders?
- Can sufficient numbers of staff reach school safely to provide education?
- Can sufficient numbers of staff reach school to provide child care safely?
- Can families get to school safely?
- When on site can we meet the needs of individual children safely?
- Is the site safe so large groups can move around safely, for instance if we had to evacuate quickly?
- If we had to evacuate, would it be safe for our children to be outside for a sustained period?
- Would children with specific conditions i.e. Asthma, be safe outside for sustained periods?
- Could the emergency services reach us quickly if necessary?
- Does the weather during the day pose a risk for children not being collected due to families being delayed?
- Will staff be able to get home safely, considering too, that many have children who may be sent home from school early?
- Does our school serve a community of families that work in essential services whereby closing school has a negative impact on wider services i.e. NHS staff?
- Could opening school ultimately mean we place other services under further pressure by increasing traffic incidents when police have issued warnings not to travel?
- Can we provide warm meals?
- Do we place our school under pressure of criticism and injury claims?

This is not an exhaustive list and other factors may be considered depending on circumstances at the time.