



# West Thornton Primary Academy

## Adverse Weather Conditions policy

**Date:** January 2019

**Review Date:** January 2020

*Robert 12/2/2019*



## West Thornton Primary Academy School

### Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

#### 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 Principal or in their absence the Vice-Principal after consultation with the Principal. 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.

1.2. Conditions on site are dangerous.

1.3. 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:

When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:- Looking at the school website, telephone/text messaging, local radio

They may also find out by Checking the local authority Website

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 Principal is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. (see para. 2.3.2)

##### 2.2 The School:

2.2.1 The Principal or Vice-Principal 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 Principal decides the school will close he/she will update the local authority website accordingly and send a text or other form of message to staff and parents advising them of the closure.

It is important for Parents to undertake the action at 2.1 above in case the text system is slow due to the number of schools trying to use it.

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

2.2.4 If there are adverse weather conditions in the morning the Principal/Vice-Principal can allow parents to bring their children into the main hall to wait for school to begin at 9:00am. Whilst waiting in the hall all parents must supervise their own children.

#### 2.2.5 Staff:

In the case of severe weather staff should contact the school as early as possible to ascertain whether the school will remain open. They may also check via the school & LA websites and/or the local radio services. If it is deemed to be open then they should make every effort to attend the school. Should there be exceptional circumstances in which they feel they can not attend then they are to inform the Principal/Vice-Principal as to what these are. It will then be up to the Principal to decide as to whether this will be granted with or without pay.

### 2.3 Exceptional Circumstances

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

2.3.2 In such cases parents should advise the Principal/Vice-Principal of their particular circumstances so he/she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

### 3.0 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

3.1 If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Principal/Vice-Principal will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

3.2 The Office will contact parents 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 Principal/Vice-Principal.

### 4.0 Wet Morning Breaks

4.1 The Principal/Vice-Principal will decide if the weather is bad enough for a ‘wet’ break.

4.2 If a wet break is declared no children must be left unsupervised. One member of staff (Teacher or Teaching Assistant) should remain in the classroom to supervise break with all children remaining in their own classes.

4.3 Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the ‘wet break can take a break once lessons have resumed.

### 5.0 Wet Lunchtimes

5.1 The Principal/Vice-Principal will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' lunchtime.

5.2 If a 'wet' lunchtime is declared the Lunchtime Supervisors will supervise the children with the support of other school staff. No children must be left unsupervised.

#### 6.0 Equality Implications

There are none associated with this policy.