



*The Federation of Cowick and Pollington-Balne CE
Primary Schools*



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Document Status			
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Policy in brief

This policy aims to set out considerations to the safety of all parties attending school premises following snowfall and include

- The safe opening of school
- Means of communication of school closures
- Staffing the school
- Snow Play on school premises

The children will be delighted when snow arrives but it may bring one or two problems. We will always do everything we can to remain open during snowy weather; however the safety and well-being of our children and staff are of utmost importance to us and any decision to close the school will be taken by the headteacher after we have considered the following:

- are there enough staff members, including a qualified first aider? – we may decide to open later to allow more time for staff and children to make their way into school safely
- are the school grounds sufficiently clear of snow/ ice to be safe for access?
- do we need to ask if parents should provide their child with a packed lunch, as the kitchen may not be operational?

Snowfall overnight

If there is heavy snowfall overnight we will need to decide whether it is safe to open the school. We will do everything possible to make our decision by 7:00am.

Staff must contact the headteacher by 6.30am if they do not think they will be able to travel. The headteacher will make a decision by 6.45am and contact the radio by 7.00am if school is closed. Staff members will then be contacted to advise of any school or class closures. The admin staff will ensure the details are put on the school website and that an app message is sent to all parents informing them of our decision if the school is closed. If we decide not to open, we will notify the following radio stations, which broadcast school closures on air:

BBC Radio Humberside

Parents should listen to the radio/ look at the East Riding website.

If the school is not mentioned on the radio parents should assume school is open. If staff have not been contacted by 7.00am, they should assume school is open.

If possible, we will also put a sign on the school gates, saying that the school is either open or closed and giving any further update or point of contact.

Staff unable to attend

Staff who are unable to attend work should contact their nearest Primary School to attend work there. Should this be closed they will be given tasks to complete at home by the headteacher which they should produce at their next day at work.

Snowfall during the school day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, we will keep the children in school until they are picked up at the end of the day. It may be necessary to close the school early. Parents will be contacted about this.

Members of school staff who live in vulnerable geographical areas will be invited to go home at the safest opportunity.

Grounds safety in snow

In the event of heavy snowfall the caretaker will try to ensure a clear pathway into school and grit the cleared area in line with the school's Gritting and Clearing Policy and Gritting Plan.

Snow play

We understand the enjoyment that snow brings and believe that children should be allowed to play outside during snowy conditions, as long as school safety guidelines are followed. The head teacher will decide whether to allow the children to play outside during snowy weather and will arrange for extra supervision in the playgrounds where necessary. During snow play, we will allow the children to throw snowballs but **they must not throw them at other pupils, members of staff or parents**. Children must not throw ice balls and must not make 'slides' in the snow or ice on the playground. So that they can safely enjoy snow play, children must be dressed warmly. Please send your child to school with warm, waterproof clothing and Wellington boots. Please clearly mark your child's name on all boots as well as shoes (as with all clothing etc brought into school). Your child's class teacher will show the children where to keep their boots during the school day.

Planning ahead

Please have the school phone number with you at all times.

Reviewed April 2020
Reviewed January 2021 (coronavirus)
Reviewed November 2023