



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Document Review

Governors approval Date: September 2024

Committee Responsible: Health and Safety Committee

Next Review Date: Annually – September 2025

Summary

The school is located in a rural area linked by many narrow country roads, staff travel a wide geographical commute and these factors are considered in any decision to close. If snow is heavy or drifting then the school will make the decision to close to avoid unnecessary and potentially dangerous journeys. It is always difficult to predict how weather may turn and my priority as Head-teacher is to ensure that a decision is made as early as possible based on local reports and weather forecasts. This is not always accurate and weather may change for better or worse, but it is an important decision to make to avoid making a wasted or dangerous journey to the school for students, parents and staff.

Early notification is our priority and parents at the school know from past occurrences that we will always do our best to stay open.

There will be occasions where the school will need to close and a message will go out on Heart Radio, Radio Kent; our website – wrothamschool.com; our Facebook page facebook.com/wrothamschool and our open/closed status will be updated on kentclosures.co.uk.

In addition to this, we will use our text messaging service (Keep Kids Safe) to inform the “No.1 Parental Contact” of any school closure.

Wherever possible the school will try to inform parents of this decision the night before.

The decision to close or restrict attendance should be taken by the headteacher of the school or in their absence by the most senior member of the teaching staff available and after the completion of a suitable and sufficient risk assessment.

The following will be considered:

- Are the school buildings accessible and safe to be accessed?
 - Are key pedestrian routes on the school grounds passable?
 - Is there means to clear these routes e.g. salt/grit?
 - Can priority be made in respect to slopes, steps or ramps or can these areas be restricted from use?
 - Outside metal staircases should also be avoided unless appropriately treated.
- Can the head-teacher ensure enough teaching and/or supervisory staff to operate safely?
 - The emphasis would be to operate safely, not whether a full or normal curriculum could be followed.
 - There are no supervisor ratios for non-teaching periods. Internal management should decide staffing numbers depending on risk and by considering the type of pupils (age, behaviour, disabilities) and the type of activity they are doing.
- Is the school appropriately heated?
 - Are all boilers are operating.
 - Are electric heaters are operating.
- Are water systems working appropriately?
- Is it possible to restrict outside play to limit the snow/ice becoming compacted and therefore more dangerous.

School Closure

Once the RA has been completed by the HT and a decision has been made to close he will register the school 'closed' on this site and then the radio stations will take the information from there.

To register the school closed:

www.kentclosures.co.uk

Management, Site, Local Area Assessment Team

Mike Cater (Headteacher) – 07890261451

Nigel Newman (FC) - 07738759438

Steve Shearman (Site) – 07843 839728

Subi Seebaruth (Site) – 07754 022036

Laura Abbott (Local staff, Deputy Head and parent) - 07903724500

If the school cannot get online on the morning of severe snow/ice, the HT can call the Area Education Officer (AEO) or Area Schools Organisation Officer (ASOO) and they will note the necessary details and complete the online information for you. Their contact details are below:

Nick Abrahams	Area Education Officer for West Kent	03000 410058 07967 467106	Nicholas.Abrahams@kent.gov.uk
Paul Wilson	Area Schools Organisation Officer, West Kent	03000 415650	
Emma O'Connor	PA to Nick Abrahams	03000 412134	