

Brampton Primary School

Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Date	Review Date	Written by	Reviewed by	Ratified
May 2024	April 2026	Paven Kettory	FPHS Committee	Awaiting



Building Personal Success

Rights Respecting Schools
Article 3
In the best interests of the children

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1. Introduction

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. Generally, if public transport is working, school will be open.

2. School Closure

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher.

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.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous.
3. Conditions on site are felt to compromise the health and safety of staff and pupils.
4. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Newham Local Authority Website by the Headteacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools website (www.brampton.newham.sch.uk) – contact through Geetha Unnithan, NPW.
2. Parents will be alerted to the closure using the texting service sent by the Headteacher once the closure has been logged with the Local Authority and Chair of Governors.
3. Should the school need to close, the remote learning policy will be implemented, providing the weather has not impacted on technology/Internet access.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website and/or check text on their phone when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

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 has a duty to clarify the circumstances of every absence 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 prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an unauthorised 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 via text and/or email using MyEd app (also known as IRIS). Where a child had not been collected for early closure we will contact the parent via their home or work number and ask to collect their child/children. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

3. Adverse Weather – Snow and Icy Conditions

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, except for those attending breakfast club and after school care.

In icy conditions, the site supervisors will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A) From the front gate to the front office door.
- B) From the front gate to the upper school.
- C) From the front gate to the lower school. D) From the front gate to the PMLD/ Wellbeing centre.
- E) From the front gate to the library. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the site team, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the school halls will be open from 8.50am for parents to bring their children inside. Staff will be on duty to take children directly by the front entrance into the hall. 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 Headteacher decides it necessary, at break and lunchtimes as well. It is the parents responsibility to ensure the safety of the child/children during drop off and end of day collection.

4. Staff Information

It is recognized that adverse weather conditions will, at times, make travel to and from work difficult. However, employees are expected to make all reasonable efforts to reach their workplace. In the event of closure, staff will be informed by text of the school closure and also be notified by text when school is to reopen.

This system would also be used in the event of a forced school closure due to circumstances that affect the health and safety of the children and staff and the practical running of the school.

5. During periods of high temperature

During heatwaves school will remain open as by law there is no maximum temperature for an education settings, but the Headteacher and the senior leadership team will make sure they take any necessary steps to make sure children are safe and comfortable.

Protecting children outdoors

Whilst children are outside the staff will ensure children have loose clothing and sunhats. Children will also be asked to apply sun cream and with younger children assistance will be provided to apply sun cream. Staff will also encourage children to drink plenty of water and stay in shaded areas as much as possible. Children should not take part in vigorous physical activity on very hot days, such as when temperatures are in excess of 30°C.

Parent will be asked to provide their child/children with sun hats loose clothing, water bottles and sunscreens with high sun protection factors (at least SPF30) to protect skin if children are playing or taking lessons outdoors for more than 20 minutes.

Protecting children indoors

During periods of high temperature, when children are indoors, the windows will be opened until the air outside becomes warmer than the air inside, at which point the windows will almost be closed to keep the heat out and allow ventilation. Curtains and Blinds will be pull down to keep heat out and an oscillating mechanical fans can be used to regulate the room temperature. Where

possible, other classroom or spaced which are cooler can be used as teaching spaces to avoid direct sunlight. Children will be encouraged to drink plenty of water.

6. Headteacher absence

In the Headteacher's absence, the Deputy Headteachers on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.