



Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

Date of Policy: January 2024

Date of Review: January 2026

RATIONALE

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. 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 due to adverse weather if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are available to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous including frozen pipes preventing toilets from working properly.
- Temperatures in the school building cannot provide reasonable comfort
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for staff to travel.

PRINCIPLES & PROCEDURES.

The following procedures will take place if the school is to close.

1. The Head Teacher will make the decision and inform the Chair of Governors. In the absence of the Head Teacher, the decision will be made by a senior member of staff following consultation with the CEO.
2. Parents & Carers will be notified of the closure by Parent Mail and a notice will be posted on the Crawley Ridge Junior School website and on social media.
3. Surrey County Council will be advised and the closure will be published on SCC's website.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents and carers well informed as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty they can cause places very considerable difficulties upon parents and carers. However, the situation may be changing very quickly and may be causing issues that take priority over sending further communication. Updates will be sent as soon as possible.

Registration and Late arrivals

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal and that there will be isolated instances where families are cut off; even where the majority of children can get into school. Parents and carers must inform the school if their child will not be present and explain the circumstances.

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 risk their child being registered as an un-authorised 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 by electronic communication or

phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

Safety on site

In the event of snow the caretaker will clear and grit some pathways. Parents, children and visitors should be aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

School Clubs and Graitney

Parents should contact providers of clubs if they have any doubts about the provision of before or after school clubs including Graitney.

Kitchen

Parents and carers will be informed if the kitchen staff are not able to produce a school meal and there will be a requirement for all pupils to bring their own lunch.

Uniform

Uniform expectations may be relaxed in the event of adverse weather to enable pupils to feel comfortable. Sturdy, waterproof footwear will be particularly important if the weather is cold or snowy. This will be communicated clearly to parents and carers.

Outdoor Activities

Outdoor activities, such as Forest School and PE lessons may be shortened or cancelled all together in the event of adverse weather. This will also be communicated to parents and carers.