

## Adverse Weather Policy

# Barnes Farm Infant School



**Building futures,  
inspiring success**

December 2016  
Mrs Rachel Welch – Headteacher

### MONITORING THIS POLICY

The Headteacher will monitor the application of this Policy and take appropriate steps to ensure that it is operating effectively. This will be achieved through discussion and monitoring.

The policy will be reviewed by the Governing Body on an annual basis to ensure its effective application and any issues arising will be raised on the School Development Plan and tracked accordingly.

Adopted by Governing Body  
Review Date

Chair of Governors..... Date .....

Headteacher ..... Date .....



**BARNES FARM INFANT SCHOOL**  
**ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS POLICY**

**INTRODUCTION**

In the event of bad weather, it is always the school's priority to remain open and as such the site team will work to ensure that the site is both accessible and safe. There are however rare instances where the school might not be able to open as normal as a result of severe weather.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. 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 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 Essex County Council Website. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory <http://www.essex.gov.uk/education-schools/schools/dates/pages/emergency-school-closures.aspx>
2. The office manager or Head Teacher will alert the media, for example, Heart Essex, who will then broadcast details.
3. Parents will be alerted to the closure using the email service activated by the office manager or Head Teacher once the closure has been logged with the County Council.
4. The school website will display a message

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 make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts 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 recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents, should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case 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 un-authorized absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorized 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 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.

In the event of snow, the main 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.

The school advises all pupils, staff and visitors to wrap up warmly and wear sensible footwear. We suggest that children wear wellington boots or sturdy shoes to school as we will also ensure that the fall of snow allows for learning opportunities to be developed during the school day.



Before and after school opening hours' parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

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 manager, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to the children at break times and break will be indoors.

In the Head Teacher's absence, the Senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.