

Hatfeild Primary School

Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

2023-2024



Introduction

In the event of adverse weather conditions, Hatfeild Primary School will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school will be made by the Executive 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 to travel

In the absence of the Executive Head Teacher decisions regarding opening and closure will be made by the Head of School.

In the event of heavy snow before the school day starts:

Parents

In the event of adverse weather, please check whether school is open before starting your journey by calling school after 7.30am, checking the school website, www.hatfeild.merton.sch.uk, or checking Opencheck <https://opencheck.atomwide.com/default.aspx>

If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult and a late arrival is anticipated, parents should ring the school to advise that they are likely to be late.

If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Executive Head/Head of School is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The School

The Executive Head Teacher/Head of School will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there.

If the Executive Head Teacher/Head of School decides the school will close, a text message will be sent to staff and parents advising them of the closure. School will also post messages on the school website, Opencheck and school social media pages. The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

If there are adverse weather conditions in the morning the Executive Head Teacher/Head of School can allow the gates to be opened five minutes earlier.

Exceptional Circumstances

The School recognises that there may be cases where families are due to particular difficulties getting in from the areas where they live.

In such cases parents should advise the Head Teacher/Head of School of their particular circumstances so they can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Executive Head Teacher/Head of School will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

The Office will contact parents by text and, if necessary telephone, and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible. After School Clubs will be cancelled.

The Staff that live furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

If a parent rings requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, the Head Teacher/Head of School will decide how the absence will be recorded.

Wet Morning Breaks

The Phase leaders will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' break.

If a wet break is declared no children must be left unsupervised. One member of staff (Teacher or Teaching Assistant) should remain in the classroom to supervise break with all children remaining in their own classes.

Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the 'wet break can take a break once lessons have resumed.

Wet Lunchtimes

The Head Teacher/Head of School will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' lunchtime.

If a 'wet' lunchtime is declared the Lunchtime Supervisors will supervise the children with the support of other school staff if necessary. No children must be left unsupervised.

Equality & Disability Access Implications

If there were to be any child in school with a disability or mobility impairment consideration will be given to their specific needs and any potential impact of the weather conditions on their ability to get to school and/or around the school site.

Written November 2023

Review: Autumn 2025