

# HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY



## Snow and Adverse Weather Policy

<b>This policy was adopted by the Full Governors</b>	Date: December 2023 Review date: December 2026
<b>By name:</b>	Mr J Wilson Chair of Governors Mrs H Rooney Head Teacher
<b>Signature on behalf</b>	Holy Family Catholic Primary School

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or adverse weather, the prime concern of the school must always be to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils, staff and visitors, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so.

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 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. Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day. In this situation, classes may be grouped together and supervised by available staff. It may be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

### **Communication with Parents/Carers**

In the event of bad weather, parents should check to see if the school is open before travelling to the site. The school will send out a communication to parents via ParentApp and inform local radio stations.

Once a decision has been made to shut the school, the Local Authority will be notified.

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible and will intend to re-open as soon as we can.

### **School closure during normal working hours**

If the school does open, but extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day. However, this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In these extreme circumstances, parents will be contacted via ParentApp/website/local radio and asked to collect their children as soon as possible. It is important that parents/carers do not attempt to make contact with the school before any decision has been made about closure and wait for a communication to be sent out. This is to ensure that phone lines are kept open for us to liaise with other schools and agencies.

Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for their child/children to be collected by a nominated adult. Normal lessons may be curtailed, and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff to await collection.