



Adverse Weather Policy

Date: 7th March 2023

Responsible Officer	Contact Details
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Date issued: March 2023

Adverse weather policy for St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Poole

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or other adverse weather conditions such as flooding, the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision to close the school will take into account the safety of all our pupils and staff, 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.

If the school is open in snow or adverse weather the decision as to whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parents/carers, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child-care and public transport. In event of adverse weather, parents should check whether the school is open before travelling to the site.

There are a number of ways to confirm whether the school is open or closed.

- Check the school website and your text messages & email. The school will notify parents via its texting system or email using the mobile numbers and email addresses the school holds in its records. It is important, therefore, that the school is informed promptly of any mobile phone number or email address changes. The school's website address is www.st-marys.poole.sch.uk.
- Check the list of school closures on the [BCP Council Website](#).
- We will inform local radio stations, in particular Wave 105 <https://planetradio.co.uk/wave-105>
- Signs will be visible at the school entrance stating that the school is closed for the day.

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

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 at 3.15pm. However this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In this case parents will be contacted by text message or email and asked to collect their children as soon as possible. The school will only contact parents using landlines where no mobile phone number is available. Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for their child/children to be collected by a nominated adult. We will also liaise with BCP transport to discuss the safe transportation of pupils.

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. If it is not safe for school staff to travel to school we do not expect staff to risk their safety.

It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if our school meals provider is unable to reach school safely.

Adopted date:	
Signature of Headteacher:	
Signature of Governing body:	
Next review date:	