

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

In our school we believe that each person is unique and created to flourish in God's image. We aspire to excellence through a nurturing environment in which every child takes Jesus Christ as their model and develops their individual gifts so that they live fully and serve others.



Inclement Weather Policy

Agreed:

Date:

26.2.2020

Review Date:

Spring 2021

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

1.2 The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher. 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.

2.0 In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts

2.1 Parents

2.1.1 When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:-

- Notification via the school text messaging service
- Checking the School Website, App, Facebook Page and Twitter feed
- Listening to Metro Radio, BBC Radio Newcastle and Sun FM

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

2.1.3 If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. (see para. 2.3.2)

2.2 The School

2.2.1 The Headteacher will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there.

2.2.2 If the Headteacher decides the school will close she will update the media sites accordingly and send a message to staff and parents via the text system advising them of the closure.

2.2.3 The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

2.2.5 If there are adverse weather conditions in the morning the Headteacher may allow children into classrooms when there are sufficient members of staff to supervise the children safely.

2.3 Exceptional Circumstances

2.3.1 The School recognises that there may be cases where families are "cut off" due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live.

2.3.2 In such cases parents should advise the Headteacher of their particular circumstances so she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be approved.

3.0 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

3.1 If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Headteacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

3.2 The Office will contact parents and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

3.3 The Staff will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

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

3.5 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, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher.

4.0 Wet Morning Breaks

4.1 The Headteacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a "wet" break.

4.2 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.

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

5.0 Wet Lunchtimes

5.1 The Headteacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a "wet" lunchtime.

5.2 If a wet lunchtime is declared no children must be left unsupervised. Lunchtime staff will supervise the children in classrooms, with children moving to an appropriate room.

Equality statement

- The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum, and the right to a learning environment, which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.
- This policy has been impact assessed by governors in order to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on race, gender or disability equality.

UNICEF: Rights of the Child

Article 3

The best interests of the child must be top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

Article 18

Both parents share the responsibility to bring up their child and should also consider what is best for the child.

Article 24

Every child has the right to the best possible health.

Article 28

Every child has the right to an education. Discipline in school must reflect this.

Article 31

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.