

# Seabridge Primary School

## Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

### Decision to Close

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.

### Closure Procedures

If the school is to close it is essential to keep the phone lines as free as possible. Therefore we ask that you use the following to ascertain whether the school is open:

The closure will be recorded on the Staffordshire County Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on this website:

<http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/schoolsandcolleges/emergencyclosures/schoolclosurelist/schoolclosurelist.aspx>

The media (BBC Radio Stoke 94.6 FM and Signal Radio 102.6 FM) will then broadcast details.

Once the closure has been logged with the County Council, parents will be alerted to the closure using the school messaging service – **ParentMail**. 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 authorised 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.

### **Care Club**

Where the school makes a decision to close, this will result in the closure of both nursery wrap-around care and before and after school care.

### **Treatment of pathways**

In the event of snow or icy conditions, some pathways will be cleared and salted (see below and attached map). 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. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A) from the KS2 gate round to the memorial garden
- B) all paths round the memorial garden
- C) from the KS1 hall entrance across to the cookery room entrance
- D) from the KS1 hall diagonally across the reception playground to the playground entrance
- E) from the playground entrance diagonally across the Year 2 playground to the KS1 building, then all round the KS1 building
- F) along the path and steps outside the cookery room
- G) the path leading to the tennis courts

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. Pedestrians entering the school site are advised to stay on the pathways that have been cleared and salted.

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 supervisor, 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 parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

All staff, parents and visitors are advised that the school drive and car park will not be cleared of ice and snow and that due care must be taken at all times.

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

Approved by Governors

Date: December 2014

Reviewed by Health & Safety Manager: December 2015

Next review: December 2016