

MAYBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

Reviewed: Spring 2020





Maybury Primary School

Produced : Autumn 2014
Reviewed : Spring 2020
To be reviewed: Spring 2022

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Mission

Our values-based school nurtures curiosity and creativity through an inspiring, broad and engaging curriculum, where learning is at the heart of all that we do. Our children learn to become resilient and self-assured in an environment where safety is outstanding. Everyone is challenged and encouraged to thrive and achieve as individuals, preparing them for their role as caring and active citizens in modern Britain.

Vision statement

Believe. Achieve. Succeed.

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. 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 and therefore It is not safe for children or staff to travel to or from school

If adverse weather conditions occur the school will take one of the following actions:

1. School will open as usual (if we consider it safe to do so).
2. School will open later (10:00am) Breakfast club and **all** after school clubs (including the paid After School club) will be cancelled and school will close at 3:15. All children must be collected promptly.
3. School will close.

The safety of our children, staff and parents remains paramount.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Surrey County Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the SCC website: <http://online.surreycc.gov.uk/education/schools.nsf/webschoolsbystatusall?openform>

The media (Eagle Radio 96.4 FM) will then broadcast details, <http://www.964eagle.co.uk/schooldirectory/schoolclosures/>

The school website homepage www.maybury.surrey.sch.uk

2. Parents who have opted into the schools text service will be alerted to the closure using our Text service activated by the school office once the closure has been logged with the County Council.

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-authorised 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.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. 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 and by their class teacher. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the premises manager will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A) from the front gate the front office
- B) from the main gate (children's entrance) to the playground
- C) from the playground to the class entrances

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

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. On these rare occasions the children will enter via the front office and taken to the School Hall, which will be open from 8.40am. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance, and report to the office before taking themselves and their child into the hall. Parents may be required to supervise their children in the hall until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately as soon as the staff have taken over

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

This policy will be reviewed every two years.