

# Cornholme J, I and N School

## Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

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 into 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.

If the school is to close:

The closure will be recorded in various ways. Should the conditions around the school be a cause for concern in the morning or there is the likelihood of insufficient staff being able to reach the school safely, the Headteacher will contact Calderdale MBC as soon as possible to state that the school will be closed. This information will be displayed on Calderdale's website [here](#). Information will also be on the [school's website](#), [Twitter](#) and text messages will be sent to parents.

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 websites listed above 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.

### Daytime Snow Conditions Affecting the Area.

Should children need to leave early due to worsening conditions, parents will be contacted by telephone to collect their children. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. Emergency Supervision will be available for the children who are left in school.

It would be preferable for parents to arrive at the school to collect their children without telephoning first. This way the telephone lines are not jammed by incoming calls.

### Pathways

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and gritted. Parents, children and visitors will need to be 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 or take part in potentially dangerous activities when on the school playground. In icy conditions the Site Supervisor will salt pathways in all yards but in some circumstances only one pathway may be available. Signs in the yards will make clear where this is located. Essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. In the Headteacher's absence the Deputy Headteacher, or member of the Senior Leadership Team on site, will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.