



## Gildersome Primary School

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[www.gildersomeprimary.org.uk](http://www.gildersomeprimary.org.uk)

### Snow and Bad Weather Policy

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 travel to work or arrive in time 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.

If the school is to close, parents and carers will be notified:

- By text message to the contact number provided by you
- By notification on the school website (<http://www.gildersomeprimary.org.uk>)
- By notification on the Leeds Education Website (<http://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/Pages/School-closures.aspx>)
- By message on local radio stations - Radio Leeds / Real Radio
- Notification on 'Twitter' using the official school 'Twitter' account

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 encouraged 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 they are 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 prevent the child coming into school, risk 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 text message, via the web site, and twitter 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.

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, in accordance with the school's Snow / Ice plan:

- A) from the front gate to the reception door
  - B) from the front gate to the cloakroom door if the playground is deemed to be safe.
  - C) from the front gate to the Reception and Nursery cloakroom door.
- The gate to the back path will be locked if it is deemed to be unsafe.

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. The car park is not priority so care will need to be taken if the car park is to be used.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School doors will be open from 8.45am for parents to bring their children inside. It may be necessary to place all children in the hall until such time that there are sufficient staff to supervise children within their classrooms.

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.

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

Ratified by the Governing Body: 24.2.14

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## SNOW AND BAD WEATHER POLICY

Last Reviewed Feb 2014  
Next review Aut 18