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## ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

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**Date:** November 2023

**Policy Review Cycle:** Bi-annually

**Review Assigned to:** Levendale Primary School, Local Governing Body

## **LEVENDALE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Adverse Weather Policy**

#### **Introduction**

During the winter months, there are occasions when we may experience adverse weather conditions. Every effort will always be made to ensure the school remains open when this occurs.

#### **Steps to close the school**

In some cases, severe weather may adversely affect school systems. The Head Teacher (or most senior staff member available) may in rare cases make the decision to close the school.

Reasons for this may include:

- Health and Safety, including if the school site or journey will constitute a risk
- Damaged or inadequate services, including if severe weather has adversely affected our school systems such as water supply, electricity, heating, food or communication
- Lack of staff members, to be available to run the school safely.
- Official guidance, such as from emergency services, Stockton Local Authority or central government

If it is feasible, a partial closure, e.g. closure to particular classes, would also be considered.

We would always re-open the school, following a closure, as soon as possible.

#### **Steps to keep the school open**

Temporary measures would be sought to enable the school to be open, including:

- Clearing walk ways to enable people to safely enter school grounds
- Gritting when icy conditions are forecast
- Considering combining classes
- Considering alternative locations within the school
- Using other school staff to provide cover for supervision
- Encouraging children/staff to wear additional clothing – e.g. scarves and gloves
- Advising children to bring their own meal
- Temporarily opening or closing the school at an alternative time
- Rearranging the curriculum to work around staff shortages
- Liaising with other schools within the Trust, where the closure is likely to be extended

## **Remote Learning**

Where the school is unexpectedly closed, e.g. due to adverse weather conditions affecting the school, remote learning will be considered. This would be communicated electronically, such as via email, to parents. Remote Learning would take the form of:

- Tapestry in Early Years
- Seesaw from Year one to Year six
- Emailed communication

It may not be possible to offer remote learning, particularly on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of a school closure. Reasons we may be unable to offer remote learning include:

- Staff may not have access to the necessary resources
- Restricted access to contact information for families
- The location of staff
- Lack of power or internet services

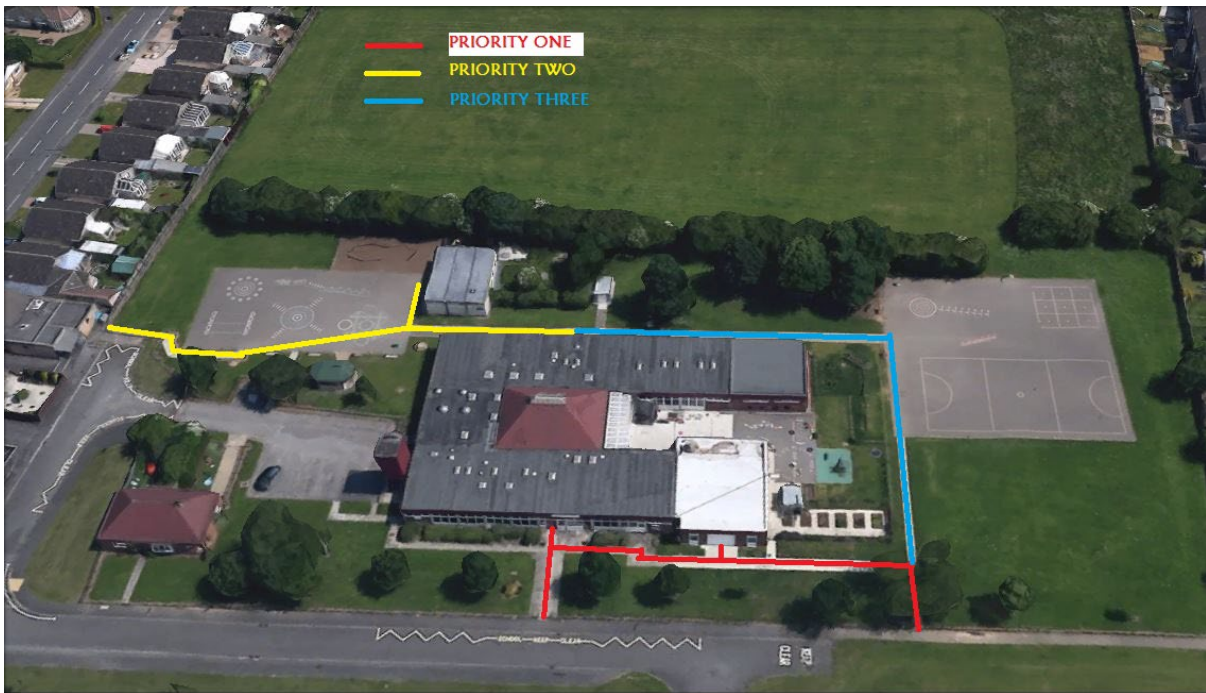
## **The procedure for closing the school**

The decision to close the school would always be a last resort and will be made by the Head Teacher, or most senior member of staff available.

- 1) At the earliest possible time, staff members and parents would be notified of closure via:
  - Arbor communications - email
  - Social media, including Facebook
  - Local radio station BBC Tees may also be informed, particularly when multiple schools are closed and they are providing regular local updates
- 2) Staff present on the school site would initially remain at school to intercept parents arriving to drop off children and to make sure children are not left unattended.
- 3) Staff would telephone the parents of any children on the site, where it is reasonable to do so.
- 4) The Head Teacher would notify Stockton Borough Council, The Chair of Governors and The CEO of The 1590 Trust.
- 5) Measures would be undertaken to address the reason for closure and to enable the school to reopen at the earliest time.

## Gritting plan

In times of icy conditions, the school grounds are gritted as follows:



All visitors to the site should stick to the gritted paths during icy conditions. In extreme weather, priority three may be closed for access. This gritting plan is shared with parents via our school newsletter.