

ST FRANCESCA CABRINI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS 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 Headteacher.

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.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Southwark Council Schools Website by the headteacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the NCC website:
2. Parents who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using the My Text service activated by the Headteacher once the closure has been logged with the Local Authority.

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.

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 front gate to the front door

B) from the front gate to the Nursery and Reception Classrooms

C) from the front gate along the back path to the school hall.

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

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 caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School will be open from 8.55am where children are to be left under the supervision of teaching staff.

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 Headteacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

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

Southwark model Policy

Adopted September 2017

Reviewed Spring 2020

Ratified by Governing Board March 2020

Date of next review 2023