

Responsible body

Title of policy



Governing body

Adverse Weather Policy

Our Vision



Astley School recognises that it is responsible for making plans that endeavour to keep all children, parents and staff safe, in line with our Christian vision and values. This policy is an important part of respecting and valuing every individual and family.

Ratified by the Governing Body: Wednesday 9th May 2018

Date for review: May 2021

Signed by: *Pete Yacher* Chair of governors Wednesday 9th May 2018

Annika Williams Headteacher Wednesday 9th May 2018

Author

Updated

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December 2017

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**1. Introduction**

This policy aims to prevent

- Pupils and staff being stranded at school, unable to leave safely.
- Parents and staff taking unnecessary risks travelling to and from school.
- Accidents in school due to adverse weather conditions.
- Excessive impact on children's education through school closures.
- Inconvenience to parents or staff through a lack of communication.

In the event of disruption caused by adverse weather conditions, the prime concern of the school is always the safety of pupils and staff. We will open, providing it is safe to do so. The decision to close the school will take account of safety travelling to and from school and whilst on the school site. The decision will be taken by the Head and communicated as early as it is prudent to do so. We aim to do this by 7am on the day of closure wherever possible.

2. Communication

Parents will be kept informed of the decisions taken using the text system, a news flash on the school website www.astley.worcs.sch.uk and via the Worcestershire County Council website (www.worcestershire.gov.uk/info/20062/schools/874/school_closures). BBC Hereford and Worcester FM 104.0 and Free Radio 96.7 will also announce school closures on air.

3. Attendance

If the school is open in snow or bad weather the decision as to whether it is safe to make the journey to school rests with the parent and staff member, taking account of local road conditions.

Parents are asked to approach school safely driving according to the weather conditions. They should respond to requests for pupils to attend school appropriately dressed (hats, gloves, warm coats, stout footwear, spare socks). It may also be necessary to request that all children bring packed lunches in case the hot dinner service is cancelled at short notice.

4. Closures during the school day

If extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day. However, this is not always possible when, for example, roads are becoming unsafe, the forecast suggests the weather is worsening or the hot dinner service is cancelled and it is impossible to make alternative arrangements.

In this case parents will be contacted via the text service and asked to collect their children within a specified time frame. We aim to allow plenty of time for parents to make collection arrangements, both to minimize inconvenience to parents and to avoid gridlock on local roads. Normal lessons may be curtailed and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of a reduced staff to await collection. Parents should ensure they collect children from the school office to allow an accurate register of pupils and staff in school to always be maintained.