



DAWPOOL

# Dawpool C.E. (Aided) Primary School

## Adverse Weather Policy 2023



### **Vision Statement**

**'The Dawpool community are united in their ambition to create a school which embodies the person, love and work of Jesus Christ: a school which enables Christian values to flourish and where all children may experience the abundant life that Jesus offers.'**

*'The Fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace, Patience,  
Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness  
and Self-Control'*

*(Galatians 5: 22-23).*

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It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

Dawpool Primary School is committed to safeguarding the Health and Safety of its pupils, parents and employees and, as such, may have to close the school during periods of severe weather. This could be because:

- The conditions are too dangerous for pupils and staff to make the journey in.
- There is concern that worsening weather may make it difficult to get home.
- Power or heating systems have failed.

The school may need to make a decision about closure:

- Before school opens in the morning.
- During school hours.

### **Before school opens in the morning**

In the event of bad weather, parents and staff should check to see if the school is open before travelling:

- A message will be posted on the homepage of the school's website from 7:30am.
- A message will be posted on the school's twitter feed from 7:30am.

### **During school hours**

If extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day. However, this may not always be possible. Parents should check to see if the school will remain open:

- A message will be posted on the homepage of the school's website.
- A message will be posted on the school's twitter feed.
- An email will be sent to the primary contact.
- A text message will be sent to the primary contact.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher or Deputy in his absence. 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.

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, emails and Twitter feed 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 email and/or text message and asked to collect their child/ren. A message will also be included on the homepage of the website and twitter feed. 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.

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 1m wide pathways as follows:

- A) from the front gate to the front door
- B) from the front gate to the nearest entry point

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 open from 8.40am for children to come inside.

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 as well.



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

If the school is closed due to adverse weather, teaching staff will upload work to the 'Class Pages' section of the school website for children to complete at home. This work will be made available as soon as is reasonably practicable though in proportion to the length of absence and disruption to children's learning.

This policy will be reviewed in January 2024.