

Parkhill Junior School

Snow and Bad Weather Policy

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open, as long as it is safe to do so.

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:

- A sufficient number of staff are unable to come in, to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous.
- Conditions are judged to be, or are anticipated to later become, too hazardous for travel.

In the event of a school closure:

1. The closure will be recorded on the school website <http://www.parkhilljunior.com>
2. The school will alert all parents to the closure via a text message and/or an email.
3. The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed 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 when it is clear that a closure is a possibility. Parents are also asked to check weather updates on the internet.
4. 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.
5. The school recognises there will be 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. 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, risk their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.
6. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is recorded as authorised absence.
7. 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, email or a telephone call either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.
8. 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 at school.
9. Parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground before and after school opening hours.

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. Cleared pathways only, should be used.

In the Headteacher's absence members of the Senior Leadership and Management Team will assume shared responsibility for making all decisions relating to adverse weather conditions.

Review: September 2023