



THE HILL
PRIMARY ACADEMY

Astrea Academy Trust

INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE

Extreme Weather Policy

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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 Principal.

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:

- The closure will be recorded on the Barnsley Council Website.
- The school website will be updated to indicate that school will be closed.
- The information will be broadcast on Dearne FM.
- Parents will be alerted to the closure by the MCAS messaging system, 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.

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-authorized 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 and will be encouraged only to walk on salted areas. Children will also be reminded of this by school staff.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

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 Principal decides it necessary, at break times as well. In the Head Teacher's absence a member of SLT will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.