

Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS & CLOSURES

During the winter months there are occasions when we experience adverse weather conditions that can affect the opening and safe operation of our school. When we have snow and ice, it can be difficult to determine how this will impact on travel arrangements for pupils and staff.

Every effort will be made to keep our school open and staffed. However, in adverse weather conditions, some staff may arrive late and the start of the school day could be affected. Adverse weather may also affect the operation of the breakfast club, so parents/carers would need to be prepared for breakfast club being closed, if we do not have the staff on site to open the school. We will always try to keep parents informed in the event of our school or breakfast club being closed.

The decision to close our school, either before or during the school day, will be made by the Head Teacher, in consultation with The Chair of Governors. Our school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. There are insufficient staff to come in to keep our 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 St Helens Council Website:
www.sthelens.gov.uk/schoolclosures
2. Parents will be alerted to the closure using our text service, once the closure has been logged with St Helens Council.

If our school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible, and we will try to reopen as soon as we can. We will make all practical efforts to keep parents informed about the situation, as we appreciate that such conditions and uncertainty can place considerable difficulties upon parents. Here are some things parents can do to find out if our school is closed because of adverse weather:

- **Check our website**
- **Listen to local radio broadcasts**

We appreciate that during bad weather children may arrive late. If delayed, parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way. You can do this by:

- **Phone: 01744 678102**
- **Email: corpuschristi@sthelens.org.uk**

In instances where families are cut off and cannot get their children into school, parents should tell us by using the contact details above. We have a legal duty to clarify 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 to school risks their child's absence being marked as unauthorised.

If our school is officially closed, it will be marked as an enforced closure and will not have any effect on pupil attendance figures.

In the event of school having to close during the day, due unforeseen circumstances, parents will be informed by text and asked to collect their child. Parents can register to the text service by contacting the school office. **We will only close the school in 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 made aware of this in assembly. Before the start of the school day and at home time, parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the playground.

In icy conditions the caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

1. To the main office entrance.
2. Across the playground to Y3 entrance

The gate from the church car park, accessed by Victoria Road, will only be opened if it is safe to do so. In the event this gate is not opening, a text message will be sent to parents conveying this information.