



Staplegrove Church School

Bath & Wells Multi Academy Trust Policy for Severe Weather

Information for Parents

Should very severe weather conditions prevail, I would be grateful if parents would observe the following procedure:

The school will remain open at all times and children will be expected to attend school unless –

- You have previously been notified of school closure;
- Closure information has been posted under “Emergency school Notices” on:
 - For schools in the Somerset area -
<https://slp.somerset.org.uk/Lists/Emergency%20School%20Closures%20Today/ClosedToday.aspx>;
 - Closure information has been posted on the school's own website
<http://www.staplegroveprimary.co.uk/>
- Radio announcements have been broadcast, listing the schools as specifically being closed. Please listen to local radio station BBC Somerset Sound
- Children live too far, and conditions are too bad even to attempt a journey.

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. 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 unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all pupil absence is counted as authorised absence.

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.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds.

We will endeavour to make a decision about school closure as early in the day as practical, ideally before 7am. PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL.

After a period of closure, a message will be sent to the parents/staff below to advise them of the school's reopening. Messages will also be posted on the school website.

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. Children will not be sent home unless accompanied by a parent or adult nominated by a parent.

It is unlikely that a prediction will be made about the day following a day of closure due to severe weather. Every effort will be made to keep the school open and parents should ensure that children attend. A

However, although the vast majority of children live in the immediate area and therefore should in theory be able to walk to school even with heavy snow, the vast majority of staff live outside of Taunton and will therefore find it much harder to drive in or return home.