



Langho and Billington St. Leonard's Church of England Primary School

Severe Weather Conditions Policy and Procedure

Introduction

Extreme weather conditions caused by snow, ice, flooding and fog, which render journeys extremely hazardous, may reduce the number of staff who can access the school. The purpose of the document is to:

- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of all pupils and employees should a school have to deal with severe, inclement weather; and
- Ensure that all employees and parents are clear about their roles and responsibilities in the event of severe weather or school closures.

The school always make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The school aim is to maintain a service to parents and pupils for as long as is reasonably practical. However, the safety of children and staff are paramount in these circumstances. The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher.

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 to travel.

In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts

Parents

When school closure is a possibility parents should find out whether the school is open by:-

- Checking messages from school via School Comms email and text messaging.
- Checking St Leonard's School website Langho and Billington St Leonard's Church of England Primary School - Home (langho-stleonards.lancs.sch.uk)
- Listening for announcements on **BBC Radio Lancashire**



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If no announcement is made, that means the school is opening at the normal time.

If the school remains open, it is parents responsibility to decide whether it is safe to make the journey to school and if not, must inform school of their exceptional circumstances to keep their children at home so that the absence may be authorised.

If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Head Teacher has been made aware of the exceptional circumstances.

Please inform school if you are likely to be late due to road conditions.

Please exercise extra caution when driving and parking, especially if there are icy conditions, as the area surrounding the school can be hazardous and ice tends to remain on the paths and roads for long periods.

The yellow zigzag area of road immediately at the front of the school and the car park gates **must not** be used for parking at any time.

Please also ensure that children are appropriately dressed for the weather, with sturdy footwear (eg wellies or boots) and suitable outdoor clothing.

The School

The school site will be assessed by key staff to ensure that it is safe and the heating and water are working to a satisfactory standard. The Head Teacher will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there.

As you can appreciate we will do our utmost to clear and maintain a pathway to the main entrance of the building in addition to clearing a single path through the main car park. However, as the weather can deteriorate quickly at times this may not always be possible immediately within the school day.

In icy conditions gritting will be completed on those pathways cleared of snow, the pathways from all fire exits and at the fire assembly point on the playground/field.

Please exercise caution when driving and accessing the building during adverse weather, We appreciate your patience in this matter, and we will endeavour to keep disruption to a minimum.

Please keep to the designated pathways wherever possible and be aware of the potential for un-gritted icy patches.



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If school is to be closed the school website will be updated and a text message sent to staff and parents advising them of the closure.

It is important for Parents check the website in case the text system is slow due to the number of schools trying to use it.

The school fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

During periods of ice and/or snow, the main pathways to the school doors will be cleared and gritted. These areas will be regularly checked. Please keep to the paths and be aware of the potential for unidentified icy patches.

To minimise potential risk and avoid extra movement around the school grounds in icy weather, children may be asked to come into school via the main entrance and collection arrangements may be affected. Details will be communicated to parents via text message/email.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

If the weather deteriorates during a school day, making travel unsafe, the Head Teacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school. School will contact parents and ask that children are collected. A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

Dawn Lindley (Headteacher)

21/11/22