

# **Adverse Weather Policy and Snow and Ice Gritting Procedures**

To be reviewed November 2019

## Statement of intent

It is the aim of Bebington High Sports College to ensure the school remains open, during adverse weather conditions, providing that this can be done in a safe manner. The purpose of this policy is:

- To make the appropriate procedures clear, in relation to operating the school during adverse weather conditions.
- To make clear the grounds for a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.
- To advise and inform staff and parents/carers of the systems and procedures in place in the event of a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.

## Remaining open in adverse weather conditions

If the school remains open when there has been snowfall or the site is icy, access to the site for pedestrians will be restricted.

- Main school entrance, student entrance, escape routes and muster point will be gritted.
- At the headteacher's discretion, during periods of adverse weather conditions, the external recreation areas may be out-of-bounds to students.
- All persons entering the school buildings are asked to ensure they wipe their feet thoroughly in order to reduce slip hazards.
- Whilst every effort will be made to clear snow and ice it must be remembered that individuals have a responsibility for their own safety and that of others. This means being aware of the potential hazards of walking or driving in icy conditions and acting reasonably in the circumstances.
- Parents and visitors are expected to use the gritted pavement areas and paths rather than walk across the snow and ice.

## Snow and Ice Gritting Procedure

Due to the size of the school grounds, it is not practical to grit the entire site. Safe routes have been identified and communicated to staff and students. There is a gritting priority plan included at Appendix 1. Priority access routes for winter gritting will be:

1. Access to main entrance and student entrance. Path way from car parks.
2. All escape routes. Fire doors leading to muster point (MUGA).
3. Assembly point (MUGA)
4. Car parks

## Possible school closure

### Information for parents/carers

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. If the school is anticipating closure either at the beginning of the school day or during the school day the Headteacher will make the decision.

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 parents/carers will be sent a text to all parents for which we have a mobile number. The school website and Facebook page will be updated regarding closure.

We will inform local radio station (Radio City 96.7FM) who announce a list of school closures in the region.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents/carers informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places considerable difficulties upon parents/carers. However, parents/carers are expected to check the website and Facebook page and make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school recognises there may be isolated instances where families are unable to get into school, even when the clear majority of students can get into school. In such instances parents/carers should inform the school of the circumstances of this



exceptional situation as the school has a duty to clarify in the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority.

Parents/carers acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents a student coming into school, risk their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

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

### **Information for Staff**

You are required to make all reasonable efforts to attend work during periods of severe weather. You must do your best to anticipate problems due to severe weather conditions and make arrangements as early as possible to deal with the situation. In the event of disruption to public transport, consideration should be given to the possibility of a car share with colleagues. It is important that you make every effort to communicate with the school about any problems you are having due to severe weather.

In the Headteacher's absence, the Deputy Headteacher will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

