
Policy on Adverse Weather Conditions

September 2023

Pardes House Primary
School

Headteacher: Rabbi J Sager

POLICY ON ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

Introduction

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. That includes snow days and on days with extreme heat – over 30 degrees centigrade in the school building.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be a last-resort decision and will be made by the Headteacher in conjunction with the Menahel and the Chair of Governors.

Reasons for Closure

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 and/or inaccessible.
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.
4. Adverse weathers leading to potential closure or early closure include snow and extreme heat.

If the school is to close

1. The prospect for closure will be discussed by the Headteacher and Menahel.
2. If it is decided to close the school, the Headteacher will contact the Chair of Governors and inform him of the decision to close and the reasons why.
3. With that agreement, parents will immediately be contacted via the Parent Text system and Parent Mail to inform them of the closure.
4. The same method will be used to contact staff.

Updated scenarios

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.

Parents are expected to check their phones for texts and emails regularly at times of adverse weather.

Late Arrivals and Absences

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 must 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 absence is counted as authorised absence.

Closure during the school day

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 text and email and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. There will be at least one member of staff remaining in school until all children have been collected.

Health and Safety

In the event of adverse weather and the school remaining open, pathways and the playgrounds will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways and playgrounds, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School Hall will be open from 8.20am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance. Parents may be required to supervise their children in the hall until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately as soon as the staff have taken over.

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 Headteacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

Continuing education during a school closure

In the event of the school being closed for the reasons above (or any other reason), the school will make every effort to revert to a form of virtual, remote learning, as put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision-Making

In the Headteacher's absence the Menahel or Deputy Head will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy but will liaise directly with the Headteacher and where necessary, the Chair of Governors.

Signed:

Date: September 2023

Review: July 2026