



THE ACADEMY OF
**ST FRANCIS
OF ASSISI**

Adverse Weather Policy

Review Period	3 yearly
Person Responsible for Policy	Head of School
Governing Committee	Admissions, Inclusion & Ethos
Date of Trustees Approval	April 2018
Date for Review	April 2021

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the Academy to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the Academy either before or during the Academy day will be made by the Head of School. The Academy will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the Academy 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 Academy is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on Academy's website.
2. Parents who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using the text messaging service activated by the Head of School.

The Academy will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the Academy during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The Academy appreciates that during bad weather students may arrive later than normal. Parents should endeavour to contact the Academy to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The Academy recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of students can get into the Academy. In such instances parents should inform the Academy of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the Academy has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence. Parents acting on the assumption that the Academy would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the Academy of the circumstances that prevents the students coming into the Academy risks their students being registered as an unauthorised absence.

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

In the event of the Academy having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by text and the closure will be posted on the website and on local radio. The Academy will allow students to contact home to ensure that somebody is there to receive them. Students who are unable to go home will be kept in the Academy until somebody is at home. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow key pathways will be cleared and salted by the Academy's premises team. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

During adverse weather conditions, the yard may be out of bounds to students at break times, if this is deemed necessary by the Head of School.

In the Head of School's absence the Deputy Head of School or another member of the Academy's Senior Leadership Team on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.