



Guardian Angels Catholic Primary School

Inclement Weather Guidance

Date Written	September 2023
Date Agreed	
Chair of Governors (Signature)	Mary Higgins
Head Teacher (Signature)	Helen Milligan
Date for review	September 2025

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

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teachers.

The schools will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the schools are to close:

- The headteacher will inform staff and parents via text message or telephone.
- The headteacher or office staff will post an update on the school website.
- The site manager will display 'closure' signs on the school's entrance gates.

The schools 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. However parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the text message system (including keeping phone numbers up to date) when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The schools appreciate that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavor to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. In isolated instances where parents are unable to get their children into school, they should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each absence. 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 un-authorised absence.

Staff and children are strongly advised to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for extreme weather conditions.

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

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 or if necessary 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.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. The gate at the back of the school will not be used and paths from the front entrance will be created in the snow. Following this, the next area to be cleared are fire exits around the school building.

Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared they 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.

In icy conditions the pathways will be salted as follows:

Pathways from the front gate to the following:-

1. The main entrance
2. Reception entrance
3. Side gate
4. A pathway through the junior playground

See marked pathways on attached map - Appendix 1

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and icy weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent buildup of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the school will be open from 8.40am. All children should enter the school directly by the front entrances and side gate and take themselves into class where an adult will be waiting to greet them

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 Head Teacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

In the Head Teacher's absence the senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Guidance.

Appendix 1



Order for clearing and gritting of the school by the priority