



Name of Policy	Adverse Weather Conditions Policy
Date last reviewed	June 2022
Date to be reviewed	June 2024
Governor Committee	Resources
Key Member of staff	Business Manager
Statutory	No

Duxford Church of England Community Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

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1. Aims

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.

It is the policy of Duxford C of E Community Primary School to remain open whenever possible.

2. Circumstances for School Closure

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher, in consultation with the Chair of Governors. The school will be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- 2.1.1 Insufficient staff are able to attend to keep the school running safely.
- 2.1.2 Conditions on site are dangerous in the opinion of the Headteacher or other senior member of staff to whom he/she has delegated authority.
- 2.1.3. Weather conditions are anticipated to become too hazardous for travel during the course of the school day.

2.2. The school will only be closed during the course of the school day in extreme circumstances where travel/ground conditions are anticipated to significantly and detrimentally deteriorate.

3. Procedure for School Closure

3.1. The Headteacher or person with delegated authority will inform the following organisations of school closure:

- 3.1.1. The School's Education Adviser, following current County Council procedure;
- 3.1.2. Local radio stations, using the password system provided;
- 3.1.3. Duxford Preschool;
- 3.1.4. The DX Club;
- 3.1.5. The School bus companies

3.2. School Staff will be informed of school closure via the school cascade system.

3.3. If the school is closed before the school day begins, a message for parents will be placed on the school website and a recorded message on the school answerphone as early as possible.

3.4. Local staff will attend school to inform any families who do arrive if reasonably practicable.

3.5. Parents will be regularly informed via the school newsletter about how to check whether the school is open.

3.6. If school closes during the school day, parents will be contacted by telephone and asked to collect their child/ren. Sufficient staff will remain in school to ensure the safety of the children.

4. Snow and ice management

4.1. The Business Manager will ensure that there are adequate supplies of rock salt ('grit') ready for the winter months.

4.2. The Site Officer is responsible for spreading grit on identified priority areas (see Appendix 1), using the equipment provided (salt spreader and manual spreader). If necessary and possible he/she will come into work early to have sufficient time. In the event of the Site Officer's absence, a replacement member of staff will be asked if they can undertake the work. If this is not possible, the school may have to close.

4.3. If icy weather (i.e. temperatures below freezing) is forecast overnight, the Site Officer should spread grit on the priority areas in the early evening. Gritting will not take place if it is raining, because it will wash away.

4.4. If there is ice on the ground in the morning, the Site Officer's first task of the day is to grit the priority areas as early as possible.

4.5. If there is snow on the ground:

4.5.1. The Site Officer will clear and grit the priority areas immediately on arrival in school.

4.5.2. A path 1 metre wide will be cleared of snow and then gritted.

4.5.3. Access points to the school will be via the current normal routes (Key Stage 2 gate and back gate) unless circumstances dictate otherwise.

4.5.4. Once the priority areas have been cleared and gritted, the Site Officer will clear and grit other areas of the school, in the order of priority given in Appendix 1.

4.6. Parents will be informed of modified access arrangements during in snow and icy condition via regular reminders in the school newsletter.

4.7. The Site Officer will continue to monitor and re-treat priority paths with grit if freezing temperatures persist.

4.8. During adverse weather conditions, the Headteacher and senior staff will take the decision as to whether it is safe for the children to play outside at break times.

5. Lettings

5.1 The Site Officer will follow the same procedures as above for lettings where possible.

5.2 If conditions are deemed to be worsening during the school day and it is not reasonable for the Site Officer to make the paths safe for the evening letting, the letting will be cancelled by the school.

5.3 School user groups who park on the school car park and/or playgrounds will be informed that those areas are not normally cleared and they therefore park at their own risk.

6. Heatwaves/Very hot weather

6.1 There are no prescribed maximum temperatures for school premises, however uncomfortably high temperatures can hinder effective teaching and learning and affect health, safety and welfare.

6.2 A heat wave will be declared when the temperature is expected to be or has been recorded for the South East as:

- During the day: 31 degrees centigrade
- During the night: 16 degrees centigrade

6.3 Duxford CofE Community Primary School will take precautions to ensure that those at risk are protected from the effects of the sun including:

- Mitigating/minimising exposure (shorter outdoor playtimes, especially during lunchtime, midday – 1pm).
- Providing sun canopies for additional shade in Key Stage 1.
- Scheduling PE lessons and daily mile before 11am. If this is unavoidable we will ensure hats, clothing and sunscreen are all worn to prevent sunburn.
- Providing access to clean drinking water
- Encouraging the wearing of sunhats/sun screen
- Communicating this to parents
- Educating children and parents about the importance of sun safety

7. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed by the School Business Manager every two years.

Appendix 1 – gritting procedure

Hard surfaces in school will be cleared of snow and gritted in the following priority order. All paths to be cleared to 1 metre wide.

Highest priority

- Path from front central gate to main entrance door
- Path from car park to main entrance door.
- All access points to the mobile classrooms
- A path from the Key Stage 2 entrance gate round the playground to all Key Stage 2 external doors
- A small area of path close to the back gate entrance (extent to be marked with cones)
- A pathway across the rubber matting from rear gates to Sheldrakes & Puffins mobiles

Next priority

The sloping entry to the staff car park (but not the main part of the car park).

Desirable priority

- The path across the front of the school from the main entrance to Key Stage 2 and the Community Room doors (fire exit)
- A wider area of the KS2 playground where parents wait – to be treated before collection at the end of the day

There is no obligation to clear/grit the car park or the playgrounds (except as detailed above)