

Name of Policy: Adverse Weather Plan	Version/Last Review Date: September 2020 (V4)
Statutory documents linked to policy:	Previous review date: September 2019 (V3) September 2016 (V2) November 2015 (V1)
Other Policies linked to this policy: Health & Safety	Next Review Date: December 2023 (V5)
Governor Committee Responsible	People & Resource management

WNA Vision: All children will achieve their full potential, with holistic support, whilst enjoying and driving their own learning, gaining self-respect, self-esteem and self- belief. Our classroom extends to rich, exciting environments within the forest, the beach, the city and the community as a whole.

Information for Parents:

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the headteacher and Chair of Governors. The school 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

Punctuality and Attendance:

We appreciate that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact school to let us know that they are on their way if likely to be delayed.

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.

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 phone or text or email and asked to collect their child/ren.

Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

Hot lunches:

School hot meals will be provided as normal, choice may be limited on some occasions.

Playgrounds and Pathways:

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors need to be aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will be reminded of this.

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

Learning during School Closure:

If the school needs to be closed then learning will be provided for each child/family on the website. This will also be emailed and during the day a zoom session will be provided for children.

Information for Staff:

- All staff should risk assess their journey and decide whether it is safe to travel to school
- All staff are expected to present themselves for work every day. If they have decided it is too dangerous to drive to school then they should upload work for the day by 9am. During the day teachers should check this, mark it and provide feedback
- Staff who are within walking distance to school should make their way to school as normal, including those members of staff on PPA time. This will be repaid to staff
- School will be open as much as is practical
- When it is decided that school is partially open parents will be informed which classes are expected to attend school via the website and Radio Newcastle
- In exceptional circumstances, when school is partially open, we will take both siblings. This needs to be discussed on a case by case basis
- The curriculum should be adapted to make the most of different weather conditions
- Operational organisation will be decided on a daily basis by the headteacher and deputy in conjunction with the School Business Manager

Rules for children during adverse weather:

- Play safely at all times
- Bring suitable shoes and additional clothes
- Walk, don't run on the pathways

Sun Cream Policy

AT WEST NEWCASTLE ACADEMY WE WANT ALL CHILDREN AND STAFF TO ENJOY SPENDING TIME OUTSIDE SAFELY WITHOUT THE RISK OF THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THE SUN. WE WORK WITH STAFF, CHILDREN AND PARENTS TO ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH A VARIETY OF WAYS.

- Parents will be asked to provide sunscreen for their children as well as suitable clothing and hats.
- Activities set up outdoors should be kept in the shade where possible and children encouraged to use shaded areas for their games.
- Children should be dressed in school uniform with cotton tee shirts that are loose and of a close-weave fabric. Shoulders and necks will burn easily with a vest top or sundress on.
- Children are reminded to wear school hats with peaks and neck covers so that most of their face and neck is shaded.
- Sunscreen should be applied before the children go out in the sun using a 'child's' sun cream which factor 50+, to all exposed parts of the body not forgetting ears, shoulders, necks, noses and tops of feet etc.
- Sun cream should be applied 15-30 minutes before going out in the sun
- All children should wear sunscreen. Parents whose children are allergic to school sunscreen should either try to find an alternative or ensure that their child is adequately covered with long sleeved, long legged clothing.

- If children are playing in the water, sunscreen will wash off and will need to be reapplied once they have been dried.

Staff need to remember to take care when taking the children for a whole day of outdoor learning. Suitable clothing, hats, sunscreen and canopies for babies must be taken as well as spare sunscreen for reapplication. Staff also need to consider whether the venue they are travelling to will have sufficient shaded area for the children. Sheltered areas should be set up using tarpaulins and children should be encouraged to use these.

Children should be taught appropriately about the need for sun protection and its importance through discussion and topics.