

# HARNHAM INFANT SCHOOL

## WEATHER POLICY



HARNHAM INFANT SCHOOL

*'Enjoy, Explore and Learn'*

Reviewed by Health & Safety Committee.....

Signed on behalf of Governors.....

Signed on behalf of Staff .....

## **Aims**

The aim of this policy is to protect children and staff and keep them safe.

The health, safety and well-being of the children and staff are always of paramount concern. Weather can be difficult to predict on any given day, especially during the winter months. In many cases, weather predicted may not materialize, whilst in other cases, weather could change quickly over the course of the day.

## **Extreme weather**

Extreme weather is defines as:

1. Sustained temperature of -4 degrees Celsius.
2. High winds on the Beaufort Wind Scale of 6 and above (gusting/gale force winds of 25-31 mph)
3. Lightening

In the above scenarios children, will not be allowed to go outside for playtimes or physical education lessons.

## **Practice**

In slippery conditions when there is ice or snow on the ground, all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure safe access for children, parents, staff, visitors and other users of school.

In extreme weather conditions when the school cannot be brought into a safe condition, the Head Teacher or Deputy Head teacher may make a decision to close the school. Using the Teacher2Parents texting service a text will be sent out to all parents to inform them that the school is closed for the day and an update will follow.

Although we recognise that snow can be fun for children, snowball fights will not be allowed on the playground, nor will the children be allowed to make slides near the paths.

To help keep the inside of school dry and safe during icy/snowy weather, children will be asked to change their shoes on such days when they come in from the outside.

A pathway will be cleared and gritted from the main gate to the main entrances.

## **Extreme weather guidance**

### **Extreme Weather Guidance Reminder**

Depending which weather forecast you look at, there is often a prediction for heavy snowfall – and sometimes they are accurate. At this time of year it is traditional to remind you about the procedures for letting you know whether the Schools are open or closed.

When the weather forecast for the following day(s) indicates that there maybe heavy snow in our area, should the schools need to close, because of staff shortages or heating/water problems, or for other health and safety reasons, there will be an announcement on Spire FM (102 FM) or BBC Radio Wiltshire (103.5FM, 104.3FM, 104.9FM & DAB Digital Radio). You should also receive a text if we hold your current mobile number, and there will be a message telling you whether the Schools are closed on the homepage of each School's website [www.harnham-jun.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.harnham-jun.wilts.sch.uk) or [www.harnhaminfants.org.uk](http://www.harnhaminfants.org.uk).

If the Schools have not been closed the day before because of adverse weather, and there is no message on the appropriate School's website, you should assume that it is open. If the school has been closed for an emergency of any sort, parents should tune into the radio stations named above, and check their websites and the Schools', to find out if the school will open the following day. Messages should be displayed on our websites - stating whether we are open or closed - from 7.45am onwards. If we close on a Friday, please check the websites and radio stations for open/closed messages on Monday, if you are in any doubt.

The responsibility of ensuring safe travel to and from school is a parental one. Parents who feel the route(s) to and from school is/are not safe have the right to communicate their concerns to the Headteacher – as a reason for non-attendance at school on a specific day.

If there is some snow, but the schools are able to remain open, please send your children in with a spare set of warm clothes that you don't mind them getting wet – so that the children may enjoy playing in the snow at break time(s) without either ruining their uniform or having to suffer wet clothing for the rest of the day.

We will try to keep the Schools open, and functioning as Schools, if at all possible – we rarely close for weather and snow-related days.



Harnham Infant and C. of E. Junior Schools  
Saxon Road, Harnham, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP2 8JZ

Mrs N Dorrington  
Tel: (01722) 327338

Mr L Coles  
Tel: (01722) 327218



## Heavy Snow Forecast?

### Think School May Need to Close?

Visit the School Website and  
check from 7.45am

Receive a Text – should be before  
8.00am

Listen to

Spire FM  
(102 FM)

or

BBC Radio Wiltshire  
(103.5FM, 104.3FM, 104.9FM & DAB)

School Closed?

#### Yes

If the school has been closed for an emergency of any sort, parents should tune into the radio stations named above to hear if the school will open the following day.

#### No

If there is some snow, but the school is able to remain open, please send your children in with a spare set of clothes that you don't mind them getting wet – so that the children may enjoy playing in the snow at break time(s) without either ruining their uniform or having to suffer wet clothing for the rest of the day.

The responsibility of ensuring safe travel to and from school is a parental one. Parents who feel the route(s) to and from school is/are not safe have the right to let the School know as a reason for non-attendance at school on a specific day.

## Sun safety

- Protection: providing an environment that enables pupils and staff to stay safe in the sun.
- Education: learning about sun safety to increase knowledge and influence behaviour.
- Partnership: working with parents/carers, governors, our school nurse and the wider community to reinforce awareness about sun safety and promote a healthy school.

## Sun safety

To ensure that children and staff are protected from skin damage caused by harmful ultra-violet rays in sunlight.

As part of the Weather policy, our school will;

- Talk about sun safety in assemblies at least once during the summer term.
- Encourage children to wear clothes that provide good sun protection.
- Hold outdoor activities in areas of shade wherever possible, and encourage children to use shady areas during breaks, lunch hours, sports and trips.
- Encourage staff and parents to act as good role models by practising sun safety.
- Reminding children staff and parents about sun safety through newsletters.
- Invite relevant professionals into school to advise on sun safety.

## Provision

- Children to wear hats outside
- Children should wear sun cream (which should have been applied before coming to school)
- Teachers should make a judgement as to the temperature of the classrooms and make internal arrangements to teach in cooler areas where possible.
- Teachers should encourage pupils to drink water and ensure there are regular breaks for them to do so.
- Where possible, all windows should be opened to provide a through breeze and classroom blinds should be drawn.
- Children will play in the fields where there are shaded areas.
- Children will be given the option of staying inside for playtimes.
- Encourage children not to be outside between 11-2.

## Children are encouraged to:

- Bring and wear sun hats
- Come to school wearing sun cream
- Drink water

### Timetabling

- Physical education lessons should be carefully planned to avoid sun exposure, unnecessary, exertion and dehydration. In extreme weather, outdoor PE lessons should not last more than 30 minutes and should take place before 11am and after 2pm.
- Annual Sport's Day will be determined by the preceding days climate.

### The role of school staff

- To encourage parents to apply a sunscreen of SPF 15 or greater to their child before coming to school.
- Encourage parents to ensure that their children have appropriate over up clothing such as hats.
- Remind parents through newsletters of the importance of applying sunscreen.
- Incorporate sun safety messages in assemblies.
- Send home sun safety information for parents.
- Encourage children to use shaded areas.

### The role of parents

- Parents are asked to support and encourage the school safety policy.
- To apply SPF 15 or greater prior to attending school.
- To provide children with a hat, ideally with one that protects the neck and ears.
- Send the child to school with a water bottle.