

# Extreme Weather Policy



In the event of bad weather it is always the school's priority to remain open and as such the leadership and premises team will work to ensure that the site is both accessible and safe. Any decision taken to close the school in snow or bad weather will be taken after much consideration and as quickly as possible. The final decision to open/close the school in the event of severe weather will be taken by the headteacher, after consultation with the chair of governors. If the headteacher is not available to make that decision, the deputy headteacher will decide in consultation with the chair of governors.

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

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

It is very unlikely that the school will ever have to close and parents/carers should expect that the school will remain open unless they hear otherwise from the school. However, in the event of severe weather conditions e.g. very heavy snow or flooding, causing the school to be closed, the school will report to parents via the School website- [www.rcobden.camden.sch.uk](http://www.rcobden.camden.sch.uk) and a text message from the school office.

Staff should attempt to get into school if they can do so safely, unless they have received a text telling them not to.

The premises managers will grit the main access paths to the school (including nursery path), the car park and the playground when necessary to allow safe access to the school buildings. The situation will be assessed daily, with parents and staff kept informed of the situation.

Should heavy snow or extreme weather conditions during the school day mean that we have to finish school early; parents will be notified by phone. Following this, pupils in Year 6 who would usually make their own way home will only be allowed to do so if it is safe and parents have been contacted. All other pupils will be kept at the school until they are collected by an appropriate adult. Given the event of bad weather the school advises all pupils, staff and visitors to wrap up warmly and wear sensible footwear.

It is very important that the school holds up to date and correct home and mobile contact numbers for all parents/carers and every effort will be made to ensure that this is the case.

Effective From	December 2021
Review Date	November 2023