



# North Curry

## C of E

### Primary School

#### Adverse Weather Procedures



Signed by:

*H Morley* Headteacher

G Slocombe Chair of governors

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Review date: September 2025

## **Contents:**

Statement of intent

1. School policies and procedures
2. Roles and responsibilities
3. Decision to close
4. Remaining open in adverse weather conditions
5. Procedures for gritting
6. Health and safety
7. Limited staff numbers
8. Attendance statistics
9. Exam disruption
10. Emergency plan
11. Monitoring and review

## Statement of intent

It is the aim of North Curry C of E Primary School to ensure the school remains open during adverse weather conditions, when practically possible, providing that this can be done in a safe manner.

We intend to, wherever possible, make the decision to close the school before the teaching day commences, rather than defer the decision and delay the opening of the school.

The purpose of this document is to:

- Make the appropriate procedures clear, in relation to operating the school during adverse weather conditions.
- Make clear the grounds for a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.
- Advise and inform staff and parents of the systems and procedures in place in the event of a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.

At North Curry CE Primary School:

We believe that every child is unique and valued. We aim to provide an environment in which all pupils feel safe and can flourish. We will respond to individuals in ways which take into account their varied life experiences and particular needs. We are committed to providing an education with aspirational outcomes, which enables all pupils to make progress, become confident individuals living life in all its fullness (John 10,10).

In our school our Christian vision shapes all we do. Our vision is underpinned by the Christian values of Koinonia, Kindness, Respect, Joy, Hope and Happiness.

**Together  
Everyone  
Achieves  
More**

through...

**loving learning, loving one another and loving life itself**

*'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself' Matthew 22: 37-39*  
AGAPE: The Good Samaritan Luke 10: 25-37



## **1. School policies and procedures**

1.1. This procedure will be implemented in accordance with the following school policies and procedures:

- Health and Safety Policy
- First Aid Procedure
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Critical Incidents Procedure

## **2. Roles and responsibilities**

2.1. The headteacher is responsible for:

- Deciding whether the school will close due to adverse weather.
- Informing parents and staff of any closure.
- Deciding whether pupils should be kept indoors during break times and reporting this decision to staff at the earliest opportunity.
- Ensuring the school is fully stocked with snow clearing equipment.
- Ensuring the school has an adequate supply of rock salt.
- Reviewing this procedure on an annual basis.
- Completing a risk assessment that covers adverse weather and gritting.
- Ensuring gritting is carried out in line with the procedures outlined in this procedure.
- Ensuring all equipment is maintained and stored properly

2.2. Staff members are responsible for:

- Adhering to the requirements of this procedure.
- Reporting any concerns relevant to this procedure to the headteacher.
- The safety of pupils, colleagues and themselves.
- Wearing appropriate footwear and clothing during periods of adverse weather.
- Liaising with one another before the end of the day to discuss an exit plan for pupils, this includes escorting younger pupils to the entrance to be collected by their parents.

2.3. Parents are responsible for:

- Only using the designated and cleared areas whilst on the school premises.
- Collecting their children when the school needs to close.
- Keeping all their contact information up-to-date.
- Ensuring they and their children wear the appropriate footwear and clothing for adverse weather.

## **3. Decision to close**

3.1. The decision to close the school will be made by the headteacher.

- 3.2. The chair of governors and the CEO of the Huish Trust will be consulted when making a decision about school closure.
- 3.3. In the absence of the headteacher, a member of the SLT will assume the responsibility of the headteacher in relation to the Adverse Weather procedure.
- 3.4. The school will be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:
  - Conditions on site are considered to be unsafe and are likely to present danger to users of the site.
  - Staff numbers are insufficient for the school to operate safely.
- 3.5. In the event of school closure:
  - The headteacher will inform staff and parents via MCAS App or text message.
  - The headteacher or IT leader will post an update on the school website.
  - The headteacher will inform the LA.
- 3.6. In the event of the school having to close during the day, parents will be contacted via MCAS App, text message or telephone, using the number provided on the emergency contacts list, and asked to collect their child from the school.
- 3.7. A closure of the school during the day and an early release of staff will only be considered in extreme circumstances.

#### **4. Remaining open in adverse weather conditions**

4.1 When deciding whether the school will remain open, risks will be assessed in accordance with whether conditions on site are considered to be unsafe and are likely to present danger to users of the site and/or staff numbers are insufficient for the school to operate safely.

4.2 If the school remains open when there has been snowfall or the site is icy, access to the site for pedestrians will be restricted to the pedestrian gates only.

4.3 Health and safety caution signs will be placed appropriately to warn users of the increased hazards on site.

4.4 All pathways, wherever practical, will have been cleared and gritted before pupils arrive on the premises, following the procedures in section 5.

4.5 At the headteacher's discretion, during periods of adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out-of-bounds to pupils and parents.

4.6 All persons entering the school buildings are asked to ensure they wipe their feet thoroughly, in order to reduce slip hazards.

## **5 Procedures for gritting**

5.2 The first phase of gritting will prioritise those areas which are most used by pupils and staff. This includes the main entrance of the school, as well as the following areas:

Side gates from Portmans and Village Hall Car Park

Staff Car Park

5.3 The second phase of gritting will include areas that are not covered by phase one, but are likely to be used. These include, but are not limited to, the following areas:

Access points to the classrooms

Main Playground

5.4 The headteacher decides which areas of the school are designated 'first phase' and 'second phase' for gritting and ensures everything is safe for pupils and staff.

5.5 Any areas that have not been cleared or gritted are clearly marked or cordoned off, so that pupils do not enter them.

5.6 The headteacher ensures that the relevant equipment is used during gritting. Any damaged equipment must be replaced.

5.7 The supply of rock salt is monitored – if supplies are low, the headteacher is notified.

## **6 Health and safety**

6.2 The school has a duty of care to anyone accessing the site and surrounding grounds.

6.3 The school will be liable if it is found to have been negligent in its responsibilities and not taken all reasonable measures, given the circumstances, to ensure the health and safety of pupils, staff, visitors and parents entering the school site.

6.4 The headteacher is responsible for ensuring safety on the school site, in accordance with the school's Health and Safety Policy.

6.5 Staff, visitors and parents have the personal responsibility to express caution and take responsibility for their own health and safety whilst on the school grounds.

6.6 Individuals must take responsibility for the health and safety of any children under their supervision.

6.7 If anyone believes that the site is unsafe it is advised that they do not enter the school grounds and inform either the headteacher so the safety can be reassessed.

6.8 In the event of adverse weather conditions, the first member of staff who accesses the school will assess the site and inform the headteacher by 7.30am of the state of site.

6.9 A risk assessment of the site will be conducted in order to assess any potential hazards due to the weather conditions.

6.10 Closing the school is a reasonable decision if pupils or staff are at risk of serious injury due to the weather conditions.

6.11 When roads are impassable, the health and safety issue is overridden by the practical issue of access.

## **7 Limited staff numbers**

7.2 During periods of adverse weather conditions, staff members are expected to make all reasonable efforts to attend work, whether this means they will be late or not.

7.3 Staff members are expected to assess the availability of all public transport and consider the feasibility of walking to work, if they live relatively close and are fit and able to do so, in order to attend work.

7.4 The school understands that, whilst staff members are expected to make all reasonable efforts to attend work, it is essential to minimise personal risk.

7.5 In line with 4.3, it is therefore at the discretion of staff members as to whether they are able to attend work in adverse weather conditions.

7.6 Staff members are required to consider local weather conditions, distance, availability of public transport and fitness to walk when making their decision.

7.7 Staff members are required to liaise with the headteacher to discuss difficulties attending work due to adverse weather.

7.8 In order to comply with health and safety regulations, different age groups may be brought together to be taught under the supervision of the available teachers and support staff:

- No maximum class size limits are set out.
- A limit of 30 pupils per class will apply if the majority of children will reach the age of five, six or seven in that school year.

7.9 The school will continue to strive to provide high-quality education in the given circumstances.

## **8 Attendance statistics**

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

8.3 When a pupil cannot attend the school due to adverse weather conditions, the pupil will be marked in the register as having an authorised absence and will, therefore, not affect the school's attendance statistics.

8.4 If the headteacher believes the pupil could have safely made it to school but did not attend, the pupil will be marked in the register as having an unauthorised absence.

8.5 Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed, without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevent the child coming into school, risk their child's absence being registered as an unauthorised absence.

## **9 SATs disruption**

9.2 If the school has to close, or if a child misses SATs due to adverse weather conditions, the school will make alternative arrangements with the STA.

9.3 The school takes full responsibility for informing parents and pupils of any agreed changes concerning SATs in adverse weather conditions.

## **10 Emergency plan**

10.2 In the case of an emergency relating to adverse weather, the school will follow their planned emergency procedure, in accordance with the Critical Incident and Invacuation, Lockdown and Evacuation Policies.

10.3 The blue folder in the school office will contain:

- Parent contact details.
- Staff contact details for out-of-hours emergencies.

10.4 All staff will be trained to:

- Contact and liaise with emergency services.
- Provide first aid.
- Move pupils to a safe place.
- Calm and comfort children.
- Contact parents.
- Deal with any media interest.

10.5 All parents will be sent a letter informing them of their responsibilities, e.g. their duty to collect children.



## **11 Monitoring and review**

11.2 The effectiveness of this procedure will be monitored by the headteacher, and any necessary amendments will be made during review.

**11.3** This procedure will be reviewed annually by the headteacher.

**11.4** The next review date for this procedure is September 2025.