

# St Mary's CE School, Kirkby Lonsdale

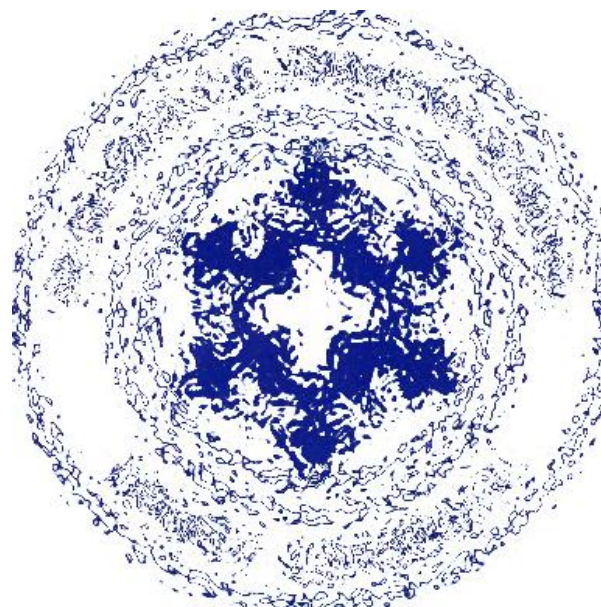
## Severe Weather Policy



Approved and Signed March 2022

J Gill – Chair of Governors





## INTRODUCTION

In the event of bad weather, it is always the school's priority to remain open and as such the site team will work to ensure that the site is both accessible and safe. There are however rare instances where the school might not be able to open as normal as a result of severe weather.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. 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.

If the school is to close :

- **The closure will be recorded on the Cumbria County Council Portal/Website**
- **The Business Manager or Head Teacher will alert the media, , who will then broadcast details.**
- **Parents will be alerted to the closure using the email service activated by the Business Manager or Head Teacher once the closure has been logged with the County Council.**
- **The school website will display a message**

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances, parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence.

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 unauthorised 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/text/email either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren.

Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. In the event of snow, the main pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

The school advises all pupils, staff and visitors to wear the appropriate clothing for the conditions. This may include, wearing wellington boots or sturdy foot wear during snowy, icy or wet weather.

Before and after school, parents are responsible for children and their behaviour during poor weather conditions whilst on the school grounds.

