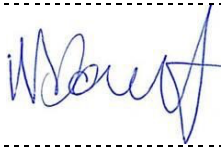




Adverse Weather Policy

November 2024

Signed (Chair of Trustees):	
Date:	November 2024
Date of Review:	November 2025

Arbor Academy Trust reviews this policy annually. The Trustees may, however, review the policy earlier than this, if the Government introduces new regulations, or if the Trust receives recommendations on how the policy might be improved. This document is also available in other formats e.g. e-mail and enlarged print version, on request to the School Offices and is displayed on the schools' websites.

Our Policy

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. Generally, if public transport is working, school will be open.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Trust executive team and Chair of the Trust. 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 on site are felt to compromise the health and safety of staff and pupils.
4. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Local Authority Website. This information will be displayed to the public via each school's website.
2. Parents will be alerted to the closure using the text message service sent by the school once the closure has been decided.
3. Should the school need to close, the remote learning policy will be implemented, providing the weather has not impacted on technology/ internet access.

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 check text messages on their phone 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 has a duty to clarify the circumstances of every absence so as to be able to formally authorise. 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 via text and/or email. Where a child had not been collected for early closure we will contact the parent via their home or work number and ask to collect their child/children. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some 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. Before and after school opening hours, including wrap around care, parents are responsible for ensuring their children's safe entry and exit from the school buildings. Do not slide on the school playground. In icy conditions, the site supervisor will salt pathways to and from the school gates to the school building entrances. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day. During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children throughout the school day.

Informing staff:

It is recognised that adverse weather conditions will, at times, make travel to and from work difficult. However, employees are expected to make all reasonable efforts to reach their workplace. In the event of closure, staff will be informed by text of the school closure and also be notified by text when school is to reopen. This system would also be used in the event of a forced school closure due to circumstances that affect the health and safety of the children and staff and the practical running of the school.

During periods of high temperature

During heatwaves school will remain open as by law there is no maximum temperature for an education settings, but the Headteacher/ Head of School and the senior leadership team will make sure they take any necessary steps to make sure children are safe and comfortable.

Protecting children outdoors

Whilst children are outside the staff will ensure children have loose clothing and sunhats. Parents are asked to apply sun cream to their children. Staff will also encourage children to drink plenty of water and stay in shaded areas as much as possible. Children should not take part in vigorous physical activity on very hot days. On days of extreme heat, the Headteacher/ Head of School and senior leadership may restrict the use of the playground.

Protecting children indoors

During periods of high temperature, when children are indoors, the windows will be opened until the air outside becomes warmer than the air inside, at which point the windows will be closed to keep the heat out. Curtains and blinds will be pulled down to keep heat out and an oscillating mechanical fans can be used to regulate the room temperature. Where possible, other classrooms or spaces which are cooler can be used as teaching spaces to avoid direct sunlight. Children will be encouraged to drink plenty of water. Schools which have air conditioning will keep their windows and doors closed to maintain the room temperature.

In the Headteacher/ Head of School's absence, the senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.