Adverse Weather Policy

Introduction

The Academy will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.
The decision to close the school will be made by the Principal. The Academy will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient ratio of staff to students
2. Conditions on site are considered too dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

In the event of heavy snowfall before the school day begins

Parents

When school closure is a possibility parents will be notified as soon as possible via one or more of the following methods:

1. The school Website: www.wellacre.org
2. SMS text message via Arbor app
3. Twitter: @WellacreAcademy
4. Facebook: /Wellacre
5. Local radio stations

The Department for Education website also publishes school closures and the Academy will notify them by email at school.closures@trafford.gov.uk Local radio stations support schools during periods of adverse weather in communicating the details to the public and we will also endeavour to use this method of communication also.

If it is decided that the school will open but the road conditions are difficult, parents should contact the Academy to advise that they are likely to be late. If parents assume that the school is closed, when it is operating as usual, the student's absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Principal is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The School

The Principal will undertake a risk assessment to decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there and consider the ratio of staff to students.

The Academy fully appreciates that in adverse weather conditions students may arrive later than usual.

Exceptional Circumstances

The Principal recognises that there may be cases where families are “cut off” due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live. In such cases, parents should advise the Principal of the circumstances preventing the student’s attendance so that they can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised. Parents should exercise their own judgement as to whether conditions in their area make it advisable to attend school.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, the Principal will decide whether it is necessary to close the school.

Parents will be notified immediately of the decision.

Staff that live the furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity, whilst ensuring the ratio of adults to students is sufficient for the safety of the students

A skeleton staff will remain in school until all students have left the site and/or been collected. If we are notified that the buses will arrive earlier than usual we will permit students travelling on those buses to leave early and parents will be notified via Arbor of this.

If a parent contacts school to request to pick their son up early due to adverse weather and a decision has not as yet been made to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Principal.

Contact Details Updates

It is important that we have your up-to-date contact details to ensure that we can communicate with you in the event of any emergency and you can do this by contacting Pupil Services on 0161 748 5011 or alternatively email: admin@wellacre.org