



# Lidget Green Primary School

## Snow and Adverse Weather Policy

Approved by the Deputy Head Teacher on: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2016

To be reviewed on: January 2018

Signed by Deputy Head Teacher: *Philippa Tomlinson*

NB. This guidance will be retained for a period of 7 years from replacement.

Version 2 / Dated: January 2016

This policy is reviewed: **biennially** by the **site manager and SLT**

This policy is shared with staff: **in policy file**

**Reviewed by: Michael Hirst, Philippa Tomlinson**

In the event of heavy snow, we will always do our best to keep school open but the health and safety of children, staff and other people in our community must be our first consideration.

In the event of a heavy snowfall overnight, we will assess the situation and make a decision as early as possible. This decision will be based on the accessibility and safety of the school site, on the conditions on the roads and paths surrounding the school and on the conditions in the areas where staff live. A decision to open will depend on there being enough staff to ensure the children's safety. While staff are expected to make a reasonable attempt to get to school in adverse weather, we would not expect them to take risks or put themselves in dangerous situations. Many roads in Bradford can be dangerous in bad weather and although the roads around Lidget Green might not be hazardous following a fall of snow, the situation may be very different a bit further out of the city.

**If a decision is made to close the school** – either partially, for a limited time, or fully - the Local Authority will be informed and will publish this information on their website. **We will put an emergency notice on the school website and will try to send a Parentmail or Clasdojo message**, although parents and staff should be aware that there is such pressure on text systems in bad weather that messages may not get through straight away. It is the responsibility of parents and staff to make sure we have up-to-date contact details for them. We will also inform Pulse radio <http://www.pulse1.co.uk/> The situation will be reviewed throughout the day or the following morning and parents kept informed of the situation as soon as possible.

If snow starts to fall heavily during the day, parents will be messaged via Parentmail or Clasdojo and invited to collect their children if they wish to do so. We cannot allow children to go home on their own in these circumstances – they must be collected by an adult. We have a number of staff who live within walking distance of school so we are able to care for children until the end of the school day.

Staff will be allowed to leave school early based on the number of children in school and the personal circumstances of the staff member.

**Path clearance** – the school site is very large and snow and ice clearing is arduous. In the event of heavy snow, **we will clear and grit the front steps and disabled access slope at the front of school** and then we will **clear and grit a path from the pedestrian gate (the 'children's' gate) at the end of Birks Fold diagonally down across the playground to Reception, and Doors E and F only.**

During the course of the day we will try to clear and grit paths around school, opening the outer gates as it is safe to do so.

Staff, parents, children and visitors should try to stick to the cleared paths but, at the same time, people using the school site must be aware that a cleared path is not necessarily a safe path as conditions can change and paths can become slippery. Care must be taken at all times.

Children must wear suitable clothes and shoes / boots for the weather.