



SOUTH DARLEY C of E PRIMARY SCHOOL

ADVERSE WEATHER SNOW AND ICE POLICY

Person/Committee responsible for reviewing/updating this plan	Headteacher
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22.01.18	PHSSC22012018.7.1	R SANDERSON	

ADVERSE WEATHER

CLOSURE OF ESTABLISHMENTS DUE TO SNOW

Every year many establishments are faced with the difficult decision of whether or not to close during periods of snowfall. The decisions are often accompanied by adverse publicity or complaint. Equally other establishments due to the nature of their operation have to remain open. The following policy aims to address both of these situations at South Darley CE Primary School.

Whilst it goes without saying that every effort should be made to keep South Darley Primary School open during periods of snowfall the following advice indicates the health and safety issues the school will consider if there is significant snowfall.

1. Will sufficient staff be able to reach the establishment to ensure pupils/service users can be adequately and safely supervised? This will depend on such factors as location of the school / establishment and where staff live in relation to it. Availability of public transport, state of roads to/from sites.
2. Can safe access routes to and from the establishment's gate(s) to entrances be maintained e.g. does the school have sufficient staff to clear routes and grit them as necessary?

If the answer to either of the above is no then South Darley CE Primary School should not be opened as the safety of pupils/service users and staff cannot be guaranteed

Whilst Safety on the public highways is not the responsibility of the school this may well play a part in the decision on whether or not to open. It is certainly likely to play a part in any decision on whether to close early if snow should start to fall heavily, especially when coupled with up-to-date weather reports. As travel on the public highway is discouraged unless essential during periods of heavy snowfall schools whose pupils/service users predominantly have to travel a significant distance to attend School may choose not to open or to close early during such weather. This is unlikely to be as much of an issue for schools whose pupils/service users and staff predominantly live within walking distance.

Other options which South Darley CE Primary School will consider may include delaying opening until a later time than normal when routes may have been cleared/gritted.

General Winter Precautions for Establishments When Not Closing or Who Cannot Close.

There is a statutory duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 to ensure safe access and egress routes to, from and around the premises for staff, pupils/service users and visitors. The following precautions (or a combination of some of them as appropriate) will help South Darley CE Primary School to meet this duty.

1. The school will ensure it has a suitable supply of grit/salt on the premises to deal with the areas needed to be gritted during icy/snowy weather. Where possible the grit/salt will be stored close to the area where it is to be used.
2. The school will have a plan and suitable risk assessment detailing which areas are to be cleared/gritted based on the risk of people slipping/falling. This will pay particular attention to areas at most risk. At least one designated access/egress route should be gritted (and re-gritted throughout the day as necessary). The timing of the gritting should be considered as gritting will need to take place before people arrive and in time for it to work but not re freeze. Where temperatures remain at or below freezing throughout the day, those routes which have been gritted will need to be checked periodically and especially before times of regular usage and re-gritted as necessary.
3. The School will ensure that all users of the establishment (including members of the public and visitors) are made aware of which the designated gritted/cleared routes are. For regular visitors e.g. parents, service users etc. this may be done by letter, text or newsletters. The School will take measures to prevent anyone using non-gritted routes and methods may include using signs or barriers and/or by locking gates to those routes.
4. The school will ensure the designated person (Caretaker) to carry out the gritting/clearing. Any PPE e.g. appropriate equipment; personal protective equipment, boots, gloves, coats etc., training and will be supplied by Property Services and the designated person will be allowed sufficient time to carry these duties out. The Caretaker is fully familiar with all the risk assessments relevant to this work, and should have been given suitable instruction on how to carry out the

work, including use of equipment by Property Services, as his employer.

5. A manual handling assessment has carried out which covers the use of grit/salt for the gritting operation.
6. The school will restrict access to other areas which have not been gritted/cleared. It is not recommended to grit playgrounds and so in icy conditions access to playgrounds will be restricted.
7. It may be appropriate to let pupils out to play in playgrounds covered in fresh snow as long as it is not icy underneath and pupils have on appropriate footwear and over clothing, and are suitably supervised. South Darley CE Primary School will inspect such areas before giving access to Pupils.
8. Staff should be advised to wear appropriate footwear during icy/snowy conditions.

South Darley CE Primary School has conducted an adverse weather conditions risk assessment and all staff have access to this document.

If South Darley CE Primary School is in any doubt about any issue relating to adverse weather the Headteacher will in the first instance contact their Area Health and Safety Consultant.