



## **ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **Adverse Weather Policy**

#### **Mission Statement**

"I called you by your name, you are mine." Isaiah 43

The mission of our school is to support and further the teachings of Christ and His Church.

We welcome and embrace individuals of all abilities and cultural backgrounds.

We aim to enhance and celebrate their moral, physical, social and emotional development, so that they may reach their full potential in an atmosphere of stability, care and respect.

We believe that education is for all and in partnership with parents, carers, children and the wider Catholic community: we will strive and succeed in a wholly inclusive setting.

#### **Equality Statement**

This policy has been equality impact assessed and we believe that it is in line with the Equality Act 2010 as it is fair, it does not prioritise or disadvantage any pupil and it helps to promote equality at St. Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School.

We have carefully considered and analysed the impact of this policy on equality and the possible implications for pupils with protected characteristics, as part of our commitment to meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) requirement to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations.

This policy was adopted: April 2021

Written by: Louise Prestidge

*"Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents."* - **Department for Education**

### **Introduction**

The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our children and staff, including adequate provision of school lunches. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or children to be onsite. We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and children can continue to learn. St Augustine of Canterbury will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice.

### **The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher. The following will be considered:**

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are not safe.
3. A reasonable temperature or hot water cannot be maintained.
4. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

### **Once a decision is made to close, we will:**

- Post a message on our school website - preferably before 7.30am.
- Send a message to parents/carers via Parentmail (text and/or email);
- We will update the school website regularly to keep parents and carers informed about arrangements for the following day.
- Upload learning onto the VLE (available through our school website).
- We will inform the Kent Closures website [www.kentclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentclosures.co.uk) of our school closure.
- Closure information will be shared with Medway Council.
- Closure information listed on HeartFM

### **There may be occasion when a late start to the school day will be considered e.g.**

- additional time needed to make the school site safe;
- additional travelling time for staff due to road conditions and the effect on safe operating children ratios.

In the event of late opening, parents and carers will be informed using the procedures set out above.

### **In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day**

In extreme circumstances, when adverse weather is predicted or breaks out during the school day, a decision may be made to close the school with immediate effect. The decision to close the school during the day is not taken lightly but the over-riding principle is the safety of children and staff. Where a decision is taken to close during the school day, parents will be informed through Parentmail, by updating the website and via Kent County Council school closures website. Parents/carers will be expected to make arrangements for their children to be collected as soon as possible.

### **Clearance of Snow Within the school site**

St Augustine of Canterbury Catholic Primary School are responsible for snow clearance: the clearance of school paths is the specific responsibility of the Caretaker. When severe weather is forecast, the Caretaking should be tasked to lay salt/grit on arrival. If heavy snow falls overnight or over a weekend, the Headteacher and Caretaker will be in contact to ensure the safety of the premises. The clearance of public roads and public footpaths is the responsibility of the Highways Department and the Local Authority and NOT the school.

**Reminders of Adverse Weather procedures will be included within the School Newsletter periodically during the winter months.**