

Stanhope Primary School

Adverse Weather Policy 2025



Date of Approval:	Summer 2025
Date of Next Review:	Summer 2027

Stanhope Primary School

Adverse Weather Policy

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

Stanhope Primary School
Masters Road Wellesley
Aldershot Hampshire
GU11 4GJ

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. 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 are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel and therefore it is not safe for children or staff to travel to or from school

If adverse weather conditions occur, the school will take one of the following actions:

1. School will open as usual (if we consider it safe to do so).
2. School will open later (10:00am) and school will have a staggered close to reduce school traffic, enabling parents to collect their child safely.
3. School will close.

The safety of our children, staff and parents remains paramount.

If the school is to close:

1. Parents be alerted to the closure using our text service activated by the school office once the closure has been confirmed by the head teacher. This will also be recorded on our school website.

The school will make all practical 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 for updates. (insert school website)

2. The closure will be recorded on the Hampshire County Council Website by the Head Teacher. <https://www.hants.gov.uk/education/schoolclosures/>

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 recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence.

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 risk their child being registered as an un-authorised 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 by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. 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 by their class teacher.

Before and after school opening hours, parents are responsible for ensuring their children are supervised and safe on school grounds, particularly in light of the icy conditions.

In icy conditions the premises manager will salt pathways as follows:

(Insert site specific details)

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

During adverse weather conditions, areas of the school may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Head Teacher decides it necessary, at lunch time as well. On these rare occasions the children will enter via the front office and taken to their classroom.

In the event of the school closing for more than one school day, the school will provide electronic learning activities and challenges via the school email system.

In the Head Teacher's absence, the Assistant Head Teachers will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

This policy will be reviewed every two years.