

Gravenhurst Academy: Inclement weather and School Closure

The decision to close the School will be made by the Headteacher in consultation with the Chair of Governors, and having spoken to other colleagues and taken advice from the local authority as appropriate. The decision to close the School due to bad weather will be only taken if one or more of the following apply:

- Insufficient numbers of teachers are able to attend School to provide adequate supervision
- The conditions on the School site are such that the health and safety of users would be compromised

The decision will not be taken lightly. Whilst we have a legal obligation to provide education on as many days as possible, this has to be balanced against the risks to the health and safety of staff and students travelling to School and/or on the School site. The earlier the decision can be made the more convenient it is for everyone. However, this has to be balanced against the possibility of making the “wrong” decision i.e. making a decision to close the School the night before to find that conditions improve considerably or are not as bad as predicted. It will be extremely unusual to decide to close the School the night before.

We are acutely aware that closing the School will impact negatively on other businesses, as parents may either have to stay off work to supervise their children, or leave work to collect from School in the case of an early closure. Equally closing the site does not further the education of the students.

A “Closure day due to inclement weather” is not an additional holiday for staff and they are expected to perform preparation and other administrative tasks at home.

Once the decision has been made the Head Teacher will notify the teaching staff, key people in Central Bedfordshire, local press and the Chair of Governing Body and the School Business Manager who will notify parents, support staff, the Pre school, lunch time supervisors and any persons due to attend school on that day.

We then have an obligation to keep parents fully informed via text messages. Updates will be sent to give information about the next day as it becomes available. If we are open.

Parents and staff should only travel to School if they can do so safely.

If we have to close **during** a School day, parents will receive a text message and then a phone call if necessary to this effect giving at least ½ an hour’s notice to the closure. It is expected that students and staff will travel home at the end of this time by the same means they arrived. Whilst the students’ safety will be our priority, School staff cannot be expected to supervise students outside of this hour, as this may compromise the safety of their journey home also. Many of our staff have long journeys home and may have to collect their own children from other schools that close.

In exceptional circumstances only, where it is impossible for a student to get home or to a relative’s home in that time, then the Head Teacher or designated person will remain with

the student until arrangements can be made. Students will never be left unsupervised in such circumstances.

First Implemented January 2010				
Re-Written Revised	Staff Responsible	Governors Sub-Committee	Review Cycle	Signature
13/12/2022	DR/AD	Resources	3 Yearly	