

Whitefield Infant School and Nursery



Bad Weather Policy

Reviewed -September 2025

Bad Weather Policy

Criteria

It is our policy to remain open unless we are forced to close because there is a risk to the health and safety of staff and pupils. The Headteacher is responsible for making the decision to close the school due to inclement weather conditions in the immediate locality.

The decision will be taken on the basis of one or more of the following criteria:

- a. Prolonged and excessive high winds that render travel dangerous (e.g. 60 miles per hour)
- b. Prolonged and excessive ice or snow fall resulting in travel to/from school not being possible or safe for pupils/staff
- c. Excessive and prolonged rainfall/flooding resulting in travel to/from school not being possible or safe
- d. The school would not be able to operate safely due to the high number of staff absence

How parents will be notified that the school will be closed:

Closure before the school day:

If the school is to be closed,

1. A decision to close the school will be made by 7.30 a.m. The local radio station would then be informed (Radio Lancashire) and LCC would be informed to add onto their school closure list.
2. An email will be sent to all parents/carers - **therefore it is important that all parents make the school office aware of any change to their mobile telephone number/ email addresses immediately.**
3. Information can also be found on the school website:- www.whitefield-inf.lancs.sch.uk

Please do not call the school to check if the school is open.

While we understand parental concerns, it would be helpful if parents/carers were aware of the difficulty for an office potentially responding to a large volume of calls.

Parents should not telephone the school at these times unless there is an emergency.

Closure during the school day:

Should the weather turn worse during a school day and in the event of the school needing to be closed during the day, an email would be sent.

If some parents were unable to be contacted we would contact the next emergency contact as provided by the parents. The school would remain open as long as necessary to care for any pupils until they are collected.

Actions for staff if the school is to close.

If the school has to be closed before the start of the school day, the Headteacher would email all staff. This should ensure that all staff are aware of any closure.

If the school had to be closed during the school day, all staff would be expected to assist the office staff and the senior management team in contacting parents etc. and ensuring that the children are collected safely.

Radio Stations to listen to if the school is to close.

BBC Radio Lancashire (95.5 FM, 103.9 FM 104.5 FM, 855 MW, 1557MW)