

2014

Adverse Weather Policy



FUTURES
Community College

Review Framework

The policy should be reviewed at the discretion of the governing body

	Date
This policy was created in:	September 2014
This issue was released on:	10 September 2014
School staff were consulted on this document in:	September 2014
It was ratified by the Governing Body on:	20 October 2014
It will be reviewed in:	September 2018

Contents

	Page number
Introduction	3
Procedure for school closure	4

Introduction

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Headteacher.

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 become too hazardous for travel later

The school will make all practicable 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 and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let us know they are on their way if they are 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 to the Local Authority. 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 risks 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 text message or phone, where possible, either at home or work and asked to collect their child[ren]. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

During adverse weather conditions, if the Headteacher decides it necessary, the playground may be out of bounds to children at the beginning and end of school, and at break/lunch times as well.

In the Headteacher's absence the senior member of staff on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Procedure for Temporary School Closure

Please be advised that Futures Community College will always try to stay open. However, should we be subject to severe weather or other serious risks to safety, it may be necessary to close the school. The decision to close the school is a last resort on health and safety grounds, taking into consideration the number of staff who are able to make it into work as well as the implications for parents who may have to arrange child care.

Many of our staff travel long distances into school and when roads are blocked they are unable to get here. Whenever possible, we will endeavour to protect examinations, however this occasionally proves impossible. Conditions can vary considerably from one area to another and so responsibility for decisions about an individual school organisation on any particular day rests with the school not the Local Authority.

We always try to make that decision before 7.00 am to allow as much notice as possible for arrangements to be made.

The school will try to notify parents of any school closure by text message and via a message on our website at: www.futures.uk.com

The school will also contact the local radio stations, although in bad weather it can take some time to get through to the snowline and for them to broadcast the message.

The local radio websites list the school closures.

BBC Essex: 95.3FM, 103.5FM and digital
Website www.bbc.co.uk/essex

Heart Radio: Heart Essex 97.5FM and digital
Website <http://www.heart.co.uk/>

Southend Radio: 105.1FM
<http://www.southendandchelmsfordradio.com/>

Please do **not** call the radio stations for information as it ties up phone lines for incoming school closures