



Durham
Cathedral
Schools
Foundation

Durham Cathedral School Foundation

Adverse Weather Policy

1. Policy Aim

It is the Foundation's aim to remain open except in the most extreme circumstances where it has become impossible to continue to deliver meaningful educational provision.

The School commits in this policy to observing the principles of the Equality Act 2010 and does not discriminate on any grounds.

2. Procedure

2.1. In the event of extreme weather conditions, the Foundation will notify parents via the website and pupils via Teams which of the following states is in force:

a. Green

The Foundation is fully open as normal.

b. Amber

The Foundation is fully open, but lessons will begin at 10.15 a.m. and finish at 3.45 p.m.; emergency timetables may be in place owing to staff absence, but all pupils will be catered for appropriately. Activities between 5 and 6 p.m. will not take place.

d. Red

The Foundation is closed. This decision will be made by 7 a.m. on the day affected by adverse weather, and published on the website.

2.2. Boarders

In any event, the Foundation will effect an appropriate timetable for boarders.

2.3 Notification

A new email policy comes into effect for notification of pupil absence due to bad weather. If, due to conditions, parents are unable to get into School, please send an email to the relevant housemaster/-mistress. For pupils at the Cathedral site and Bow site please use chorister@dcsf.org.uk

3. Adverse Weather Clothing

In the event of adverse weather, parents are reminded that it is perfectly acceptable for pupils to wear warm clothing and appropriate footwear; pupil welfare is paramount and, as such, pupils may wear a coat of an appropriate design; please note, however, that hoodies are not permitted and multi-coloured items are not acceptable. If in doubt, please contact House staff.

4. Sports fixtures

Where bad weather significantly affects fixtures notification will be published on SOCS. Additionally, staff responsible for teams will ensure parents are informed.

5. Work

In the event of prolonged bad weather and disruption, pupils will be able to access work via Teams. Heads of Departments will ensure that work is provided, especially for examination classes.

6. Chapel

In the event of Amber or Red, Friday Chapel Services will be cancelled.

7. Junior School

These measures apply equally across the Foundation. However, there may be different arrangements in terms of classroom provision depending on staff availability on the different sites.

8. School Buses

In the event that bad weather prevents School buses from running, parents will be notified as soon as possible and work will be accessible via the Teams.

9. Late Arrival

In the event that pupils arrive late, they should report to the School Office in the Administration Building to register and then go to lessons as normal. If an emergency timetable is in operation, they will be instructed where to go.

10. Early Collection

It is sometimes the case that parents ask to collect pupils early. Whilst we accept, of course, that this may sometimes be necessary, we do stress that pupils should not ring parents to request an early collection. If a decision is made that an early closure is appropriate notification will be posted on the website. If parents deem it necessary to collect pupils early, they should notify the school rather than the pupil. The School will then ensure that pupils are notified.

11. Movement between sites

Senior staff, in conjunction with the Estates Team, will make a decision on movement between sites for activities such as Junior Games. Suitability on the access paths/ slopes and the Prebends bridge to be checked for ice in winter conditions.

12. Links to other policies and documents

This policy is linked to the following:

- Risk Assessment Policy

13. Oversight

This policy is overseen by the Health, Safety and Welfare Committee and will be reviewed at least once every three years.

Policy written and reviewed 10/11/2014

Policy reviewed 06/11/17

M. P. Alderson (Deputy Head [Staff])

Policy reviewed 22/10/20

P. C. Gerrard (Assistant Head)

Policy reviewed 17/11/21

P. C. Gerrard (Assistant Head)

Policy reviewed 14/11/24

KJ McLaughlin (Principal)