



Loreto High School Chorlton

Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

Approved: October 2014

Policy Aims

Loreto High School aims to maintain safe access and routes across the school site as far as reasonably practical within the resources available.

All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure the school remains open as normal and partial closure will always be considered before the decision is made to completely close the school.

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:

- Insufficient staff are present to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on the school site are dangerous.
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

The Head Teacher will notify the Local Authority of their intention to close and will update the school website. Text messages will also be sent to alert parents to the closure. It is essential that parents keep the school informed of any changes to their mobile phone numbers.

Loreto High 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 considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the school website when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

Loreto High School anticipates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal, parents should endeavour to keep the school informed if their child is likely to be delayed. 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 unauthorised 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 worsening weather conditions or unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone or text message. An early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. It would be preferable for parents not to contact the school directly via the telephone as this may jam the phone lines.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, students and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even when cleared, do remain dangerous. Students will be reminded by staff of the dangers of throwing snow and ice and of sliding on ice patches.

In icy conditions the site manager and his team will salt essential pathways ensuring access to all the school buildings. Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained throughout the day.

During adverse weather conditions, parts of the school grounds (playground, astro pitch) may be out of bounds to students at the beginning, during and at the end of the school day.