

# Underwood West Academy

## Policy and Procedures for Adverse Weather Conditions

### Rationale

It is the policy of the academy to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. There is a legal requirement that any sessions for pupils lost should be made up within the academy year, where it is reasonably practicable to do so.

The decision to close the academy either before or during the academy day will be made by the Principal in consultation with the Chair/governors.

**The academy will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:**

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the academy running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

### Procedure for notifying parents in the event of closure

If the academy is to close:

1. Notification of the closure will be sent to Head of Service: Strategy, Planning and Performance via email.
2. The Cheshire East website has a **Winter in Cheshire East** page which links to **School/Academy closures**. A list of academy closures will be published and updated on this page: [https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/community\\_safety/adverse-weather/schools\\_and\\_leisure.aspx](https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/environment/community_safety/adverse-weather/schools_and_leisure.aspx)
3. Notification of the closure will be sent to parents via a range of media:
  - a) School Spider and a ParentPay message.
  - b) Local Radio Stations – Signal - <https://planetradio.co.uk/signal1/local/weather/school-closures-in-staffordshire-cheshire/>, The CAT Radio - <https://www.thecat.radio/>
  - c) A notice on the School Website

4. In the event of the academy having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted text in the first instance and notification will be put on local radio stations and the academy website as above.

➤ **Parents may also ring the telephone landline – 01270 260580**

➤ A member of the admin or Pastoral Team will contact Transport in relation to Cared for Pupils to inform of circumstances / changes to pick up times.

*The academy will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the academy 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 website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.*

#### Pupil Attendance Procedures during adverse weather conditions

**It is important that procedures are followed by parents and carers in order that the correct registration codes can be used in the event of adverse weather conditions.**

1. The academy appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the academy to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed.
2. The academy recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the majority of children can get into academy. In such instances parents should inform the academy of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the academy has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority.
3. Parents acting on the assumption that the academy would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the academy of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into academy risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.
4. Where the academy is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

## Gritting Procedures during adverse weather conditions

At Underwood West Academy the Local Governing Body recognises its responsibility and is committed to securing the health, safety and well-being of all employees, pupils, parents and carers, and others affected by the Academy's activities, including visitors and contractors. It seeks to provide a safe and healthy workplace and working environment (internal and external) for all members of the academy community in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The maintenance of a safe external site is considered vital in exercising this responsibility in order to:

### Aims

- prevent accidents and cases of site -related injury
- provide adequate control of external health and safety risks
- maintain safe conditions for all external activity throughout the year

In the event of snow designated pathways will be cleared and salted. (Please see attached Plan).

In icy conditions School Staff will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A. From the front gate to the front door (following red lines with footsteps) and past the front of the academy.
- B. From the back gate onto the Atlantic Playground (leading off Frank Webb Avenue)
- C. From the Atlantic playground, across the back of the academy building and down the side to the front of the academy.
- D. Steps leading to the Year 1 area and pathways around the New Building including the steps to the Multi-Purpose room and the Pod.
- E. Any other areas Risked Assessed to require urgent gritting on a particular day according to conditions.

# UWA Gritting Plan 2023/24

KS2 playground

Wraparound

4S  
4J  
5W  
5B



6V  
6J  
Nurture  
Pacific Hall  
Breakfast Club  
Y4 - 6  
Pacific Building

1W  
3HR  
1C  
2H  
2HR

3D

Atlantic Hall  
Breakfast Club  
Reception - Y3

Reception Classes  
RO, RG, RS

UWA Nursery  
Main office

Reception playground

Nursery playground

Key:

- Gritted
- Walkway
- Grit Bin
- Gate
- Steps