



Simpson's Lane Academy
Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions
2015-2016

It is the policy of the academy to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the academy, either before or during the school day will be made by the Head of Academy. 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 school running safely
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the academy is to close, the Head of Academy will inform parents of this closure by:

1. Updating the news on our SPTA Website www.simpsonslane.org.uk
2. Alerting the local radio station, (Ridings FM) who will then broadcast details
3. Using the text service which will send an SMS to any parent who has opted into this scheme.

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 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 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. The academy recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into the academy. In such instance, 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. Parents acting on the assumption that the academy would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform of the circumstances that prevent the child coming into the academy, risk their child being registered as an unauthorised absence. Where the academy is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

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 by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow or ice, the following pathways will be cleared and salted:



Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous; children will also be reminded of this. Before and after academy opening hours, parents are responsible for the safety of their child/ren.

On weekdays, where the academy is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the caretaker, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

During adverse weather conditions, the playgrounds may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of the academy day, and, if the Head of Academy decides it necessary, at break times.

Policy reviewed by:

Role	Name	Signed and Dated
Head of Academy	Sarah Annable	
Chair of Governors	Cliff Pritchard	