Roseacre Junior School

Adverse Weather Policy

Version	1
Policy owner	Duncan Garrett
Date ratified by the Governing Body	3rd December 2025
Review date	October 2026

Aims

During adverse weather, it is the recommendation of the Department for Education and our policy to make every effort to keep school open for teaching wherever possible. The decision to close will only be taken as a last resort further to an assessment which determines an unacceptable risk.

Examples of adverse or severe weather can include (but are not limited to):

- snow or prolonged, extremely cold weather
- very strong or gale force winds
- very heavy rain leading to the potential for flooding

Attendance

Unless they are specifically informed otherwise, staff are expected to come into work as usual and are reminded of their duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions which includes taking extra care when travelling to and from work in severe weather conditions.

It is up to individual parents to decide how safe their journey to school is, and we do not expect parents to put themselves or their children at risk when coming to school. We understand if, in extreme weather conditions, parents choose to keep children at home. Similarly, if the weather deteriorates greatly during the day, it is up to individual parents to decide whether they need to collect their children from school earlier than usual for safety reasons.

Where the school is officially closed, all absences are counted as authorized absence.

Decision to close before the school day commences

For pupils, if no announcement is made, the school is open. Please do not ring the school office to check, instead please refer to the school website (www.roseacre.kent.sch.uk) and the Kent Closures website (www.kentclosures.co.uk). School closures are also announced on local radio stations - BBC Radio Kent (96.7 FM) and Heart Radio (103.1 FM). If school is closed, a message will be sent to staff and parents by 7.30am.

Decision to close during the school day

Should pupils need to leave during the school day due to worsening conditions; a message will be sent to parents / carers informing them that the school is closed and to collect their children. Wherever possible, parents will also be contacted by telephone call. Once notified of a closure, it would be preferable for those parents who are coming to collect their children do so without telephoning first to avoid blocking the telephone lines. Supervision will be available in school

until pupils can be collected, however we would expect parents to collect their children as soon as possible.

Responsibilities of parents/carers

Parents / carers are expected to check the school website and messages when it is clear that a closure is a possibility. It is also the responsibility and duty of parents and carers to inform us if any contact details have changed and ensure we have more than one telephone contact for their child.