

**St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School**  
**Adverse Weather Policy**



Responsible committee: Buildings  
Review Date: Autumn 2025

### **Mission Statement**

Our mission is to nourish the growth of all its members as persons illuminated by the light of Christ as our Catholic values permeate all aspects of school life.

We aim to provide a quality education where high standards of attainment and behaviour are expected. We encourage all our pupils to develop as life-long learners as they strive to reach their full physical, intellectual and social potential.

This happens within an atmosphere of love, respect and tolerance of others in mutual co-operation within our School, Home and Parish family.

### **Introduction**

1.1 The school will make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

1.2 The decision to close the school will be made by the Head Teacher. The school 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 to travel.

1.3 In the absence of the Head Teacher decisions regarding opening and closure will be made by the Deputy Head Teacher.

### **2.0 In the Event of Heavy Snow Before the School Day Starts**

#### **2.1 Parents**

2.1.1 If it is decided that the school will open, but the road conditions are difficult, parents should ring the school to advise that they are likely to be late.

2.1.2 If parents assume that the school is closed, but it is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Head Teacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances. (see para. 2.3.2)

#### **2.2 The School**

2.2.1 The Head Teacher will decide whether the school will open taking into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there.

2.2.2 If the Head Teacher decides the school will close he will send a text message to staff advising them of the closure.

He will use the school's communication systems ParentMail and Class Dojo as well as the school website to advise parents of closure. Parents can also go online to see if the school is closed at Kent County Council's school closures page or tune into RADIO KENT (96.7FM, 104.2FM or 97.6FM, website [www.bbc.co.uk/kent](http://www.bbc.co.uk/kent)) or HEART FM (103.1FM or 102.8FM, website [www.heart.co.uk/kent](http://www.heart.co.uk/kent)) or KMFM (106fm, website [www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk)) to listen to the School Closure messages.

The School fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual.

2.2.3 If there are adverse weather conditions in the morning the Head Teacher can allow parents to bring their children into the main hall to wait for school to begin at 8.40am. Whilst waiting in the hall all parents must supervise their own children. The headteacher may also consider a delayed start to the school day.

### **2.3 Exceptional Circumstances**

2.3.1 The School recognises that there may be cases where families are "cut off" due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live.

2.3.2 In such cases parents should advise the Head Teacher of their particular circumstances so he can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

### **3.0 In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day**

3.1 If there is heavy snowfall during the school day the Head Teacher will decide whether it is necessary to close the school. This will be based on whether it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

3.2 The Office will contact parents by school's communication systems (Parentmail), if necessary telephone, and ask that they pick their child/children up from school as soon as possible.

3.3 The Staff that live furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

3.4 A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

3.5 If a parent rings requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, the Head Teacher will decide how the absence will be recorded.

### **4.0 Wet Morning Breaks**

4.1 The Head Teacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' break (wet play).

4.2 If a wet break is declared no children must be left unsupervised. Duty staff for playtimes will supervise KS1 / KS2 in the hall depending on whether it is KS1 /

KS2 playtime. If the Hall is not available one member of staff (Teacher or Teaching Assistant) should remain in the classroom to supervise break with all children remaining in their own classes.

4.3 Members of staff who stay in the classroom during the "wet" break can take a break once lessons have resumed.

### **5.0 Wet Lunchtimes**

5.1 The Head Teacher will decide if the weather is bad enough for a 'wet' lunchtime.

5.2 If a 'wet' lunchtime is declared the Lunchtime Supervisors will supervise the children with the support of other school staff if necessary. No children must be left unsupervised.

### **6.0 Equality & Disability Access Implications**

If there were to be any child in school with a disability or mobility impairment consideration will be given to their specific needs and any potential impact of the weather conditions on their ability to get to school and/or around the school site.

### **7.0 Related Policies**

Home learning policy

Letter to parents to explain severe weather procedures

## Severe Snow/Ice Plan for Parents and Families

Dear Parents/Carers,

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite. We recognise that it is important our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. St. William of Perth Catholic Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by gritting pathways, clearing access points etc. However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, we may have to take the decision to close the school. In the first instance please check the school website: [www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk](http://www.stwilliamofperth.org.uk) where a notification will be posted or check your email for a message from the school via ParentMail. Alternatively, you can go online to see if the school is closed at Kent County Council's school closures page or tune into RADIO KENT (96.7FM, 104.2FM or 97.6FM, website [www.bbc.co.uk/kent](http://www.bbc.co.uk/kent)) or HEART FM (103.1FM or 102.8FM, website [www.heart.co.uk/kent](http://www.heart.co.uk/kent)) or KMFM (106fm, website [www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk](http://www.kentschoolclosures.co.uk)) to listen to the School Closure messages.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit [www.kent.gov.uk/winter](http://www.kent.gov.uk/winter) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey.
- Don't forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing (please ensure that all clothing is clearly named).
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates. If you would be willing to help our Caretaker clear snow, should we have any, please email [office@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk](mailto:office@stwilliamperth.medway.sch.uk) or call into the school office. We will then be able to add your details to our list.

Many thanks for your support in helping St. William of Perth remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.

Yours sincerely,

*J Willis*

Mr J Willis  
Headteacher