



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

LONGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

CARE • GROW • SHINE

1. Purpose

Longton Primary School and Nursery will make every reasonable effort to remain open during adverse weather, while putting the safety of pupils, staff and visitors first. This policy covers snow and ice, storms, flooding, extreme heat and other weather that may make the site or travel unsafe.

2. Decision to open, close or change arrangements

The Headteacher will decide whether the school can open safely, remain open or close temporarily, using a risk assessment. Factors include:

- whether the site, entrances, paths and playgrounds can be used safely;
- whether enough staff can attend to supervise pupils and run the school safely;
- whether travel to and from school is likely to be hazardous;
- heating, water, electricity, building conditions, flooding, temperatures and official weather warnings.

The school will aim to reopen as soon as it is safe. If the Headteacher is unavailable, a designated senior leader will make the decision and inform the Headteacher as soon as possible.

3. How families will be informed

Changes to opening arrangements will be shared with parents and carers through Bromcom and the school website. Families can also check Lancashire County Council's school-closure information and the GOV.UK school-closure checker. The school will provide updates as soon as reasonably possible, although decisions may be made at short notice if conditions change.

Parents and carers should check school messages before setting off. If the school is open but a family believes the journey is unsafe, they should contact the school promptly and explain why. Each case will be considered under the school's attendance procedures and current national guidance; absence will not automatically be treated as unauthorised.

4. Closure during the school day

If conditions deteriorate after pupils arrive, the Headteacher will decide whether early closure is necessary. The school office will contact parents and carers with collection arrangements. Pupils will remain supervised until collected or another safe arrangement is agreed. Staff will leave only when it is safe and appropriate. Requests for early collection while the school remains open will be considered individually.



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5. Breaktimes and site safety

The Headteacher or delegated senior leader will decide whether outdoor play is safe. Breaks and lunch may be moved indoors, with pupils supervised. Unsafe paths or areas will be closed off. Staff should report hazards promptly and follow site safety instructions.

6. Learning during closure

If the school closes temporarily, leaders will consider whether remote education is appropriate and practicable for the circumstances. This does not change the priority to reopen as soon as it is safe. The school will consider the needs of pupils who may require additional support.

7. Responsibilities and review

The Headteacher leads decision-making and communication. Staff must follow instructions and report risks; parents and carers should keep contact details up to date and follow school messages. The Governing Body oversees this policy. It will be reviewed annually and sooner if national guidance, local arrangements or school circumstances change.

Related guidance

Department for Education – Emergency planning and response: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/emergency-planning-and-response-for-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings>

Department for Education – Working together to improve school attendance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-improve-school-attendance>

GOV.UK school-closure checker: <https://www.gov.uk/check-school-closure>

Met Office weather warnings: <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/warnings-and-advice>