

St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School

Snow and Bad Weather Policy



The Governing Body of St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School

Date of Policy	November 2021
Reviewed	November 2023
Chair/Committee Chair of Governor's signature	
Headteacher's signature	

Mission Statement

Inspiring and achieving lifelong learning in a welcoming Catholic community.

Safeguarding Statement

At St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School, we respect and value all children and are committed to providing a caring, friendly and safe environment for all our pupils so they can learn, in a relaxed and secure atmosphere. We believe every pupil should be able to participate in all school activities in an enjoyable and safe environment and be protected from harm. This is the responsibility of every adult employed by or invited to deliver services at St Elizabeth Catholic Primary School. We recognise our responsibility to safeguard all who access school and promote the welfare of all our pupils by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional abuse, neglect and bullying.

Equality statement

As a school we are committed to ensuring that equality principles are embedded within all school policies and procedures, as we endeavour to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation.
- Promote equality of access and opportunity within our school and within our wider community so all pupils achieve their full potential.
- Promote positive attitudes to difference and good relationships between people with different backgrounds, genders, cultures, faiths, abilities, sexual orientation, and ethnic origins.

School Values

As a Catholic school with a strong Christian ethos we actively support and promote a value-based education. By living out our 4Rs – **Relationships, Resilience, Responsibility and Respect**, we encourage the whole school community to:

- Think about and reflect upon positive Christian, British and Universal values
- Experience how living out these values impacts on themselves and others, in school, in the wider community and in the world
- Instil a sense of belonging to the school, the local community, the country they live in and the wider global community
- Inspire individuals to choose their own positive personal social, moral and spiritual values
- Promote an inclusive school ethos and a learning climate that will raise aspirations and achievement
- Raise self-esteem and encourage children to take more responsibility for their own behaviour and learning

British Values

At St Elizabeth, we recognise and promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

Through this provision of SMSC, the school will:

- enable pupils to develop their self-knowledge, self-esteem and self-confidence;
- enable pupils to distinguish right from wrong and to respect the civil and criminal law of England;
- encourage pupils to accept responsibility for their behaviour, show initiative, and to understand how they can contribute positively to the lives of those living and working in the locality of the school and to society more widely;
- enable pupils to acquire a broad general knowledge of and respect for public institutions and services in England; further tolerance and harmony between different cultural traditions by enabling pupils to acquire an appreciation of and respect for their own and other cultures;
- encourage respect for other people; and
- encourage respect for democracy and support for participation in the democratic processes, including respect for the basis on which the law is made and applied in England.

Data Protection

The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) ensures a balance between an individual's rights to privacy and the lawful processing of personal data undertaken by organisations in the course of their business. It aims to protect the rights of individuals about whom data is obtained, stored, processed or supplied and requires that organisations take appropriate security measures against unauthorised access, alteration, disclosure or destruction of personal data.

The School will protect and maintain a balance between data protection rights in accordance with the GDPR. This policy sets out how we handle the personal data of our pupils, parents, suppliers, employees, workers and other third parties.

Changes to data protection legislation will be monitored and further amendments may be required to this policy in order to remain compliant with legal obligations.

All members of staff are required to familiarise themselves with its content and comply with the provisions contained in it. Breach of this policy will be treated as a disciplinary offence which may result in disciplinary action under the School's Disciplinary Policy and Procedure up to and including summary dismissal depending on the seriousness of the breach.

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of pupils and staff.

The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so.

If the school is open in snow or bad weather the decision as to whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parent, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child care.

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

In the event of bad weather, parents should check to see if the school is open before travelling to the site. This can be done through checking the school's website or checking messages from Teachers2Parents – in the event of such bad weather, we will endeavour to text parents with regard to whether the school is open or closed.

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible and will intend to re-open as soon as we can.

If the school does open, but extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day. However, this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In which case parents will be contacted Teachers2Parents and asked to collect their children as soon as possible. Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for their child/children to be collected by a nominated adult. Normal lessons may be curtailed, and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff to await collection.

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day. It may be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.