

Walkley Primary School
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Chair of Governors: Andy Wilcock

Headteacher: Chris Wallis

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'Enjoyment, Achievement and Learning for life...'

15th July 2022

WPS – Response to Rising temperatures – Adverse Weather Policy

Dear Parents/Carers,

Further to my letter yesterday I would like to draw your attention to the [Adverse weather policy](#). Although this policy is normally applied in the cases of snowfall around site, it can be applied if temperatures are deemed unsafe in school. The policy indicates procedures we will follow if one or more of the following conditions are identified by the Safeguarding and Premises Team in school:

- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- Conditions on site are dangerous and temperatures are deemed unsafe putting children, parents and/or staff at risk of:
 - a. dehydration
 - b. sunburn
 - c. overheating
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

As stated in the policy:

- we will notify you by text message if school is deemed unsafe to open. It is our expectation that we will be open as usual on Monday and Tuesday next week.
- We do understand that some parents, especially those who do not live within easy walking distance, may feel that it is unsafe to try to get your child (ren) to school. In extreme weather, we also understand that parents may choose to be at home with your child. For safeguarding reasons, the usual absence procedures should be followed. If parents assume that the school is closed, but is actually open, the absence will be recorded as unauthorised unless the Headteacher is satisfied that there are exceptional circumstances.

The School Building

Our new school building has an in-built ventilation system that circulates air from outside with air inside the building. This has been turned off as it would likely cause temperatures to rise in school.

Windows can be opened to provide ventilation, but conversely when temperatures are higher outside windows can be closed and blinds used to stop direct sunlight from entering the classrooms.

Please note, we have not used this new school building in extreme heat conditions and cannot predict how hot classrooms will be. If the Safeguarding and Premises Teams deem conditions unsuitable as per the policy we will notify parents for early collection from school.

In school we will:

- reduce the amount of time that children are outside in the sunshine particularly a lunchtime

- provide opportunities for the children to remain indoors during lunchtimes
- reduce the amount of physical activity such as PE and Dance particularly in the afternoon when the heat is strongest
- have regular water breaks throughout the day

Parents can support us further by:

- ensuring children come to school in appropriate clothes. Loose, light long sleeved clothing may be better than short sleeves and shorts in some cases (if students can get this) as it covers more of the body and provides ventilation and is useful to protect from the sun. **We will not be applying school code of dress next week.**
- ensuring your child has a sun hat
- applying sun cream before children arrive in school
- ensuring children have a labelled water bottle in school (they will be able to refill this in school as required).

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions regarding this, or any other issues, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Mr Wallis

Headteacher