



Dixons Unity Academy Policy Documentation

Policy: Adverse Weather

Responsibility for Review: Principal/Operations Business Manager

Date of Last Review: January 2020

Adverse Weather Policy

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, the prime concern of the academy must always be the safety of the students and staff.

If heavy snow falls overnight and continues into the following day, parents are asked to observe the following procedures. The decision as to whether or not to send a student to school must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child-care.

Members of staff are asked to make every effort to get to school although, in severe conditions, they must make a judgement about the safety of travelling.

Academy Closure before the start of the day

The decision to close the academy will be based on the safety and/or risk to students and staff. Factors such as local road conditions, the condition of the academy site and the weather forecast will be considered when making this decision.

Where the decision to close the academy is taken, the following actions will be taken to ensure parents are kept up to date with information:

- The academy will contact local radio stations and ask them to broadcast the closure.
- An announcement will be placed on the academy website (www.dixonsua.com) and updated regularly.
- An announcement will be placed on the academy twitter feed (@dixonsunity).
- A text message will be sent to all parents announcing closure before 7.30am where possible.

Academy Closure during the day

Although we will make every effort to ensure the academy remains open for the full day, there may be some instances where there is a need to close the academy earlier than anticipated. These instances may include but are not limited to, worsening weather conditions, serious disruption to public transport and student/staff safety concerns.

Where the decision to close the academy during the day is taken, the following actions will be taken:

- All students will be assembled in their registration groups to await further instruction.
- A text message will be sent home advising that the academy is closing and the time that students will be dismissed from site.
- Students will be dismissed and allowed to make their own way home at the time stated in the text message unless the academy has been instructed otherwise by the parent.
- Regular updates will be placed on the academy website and twitter feed regarding the closure.

Safety of the Academy site

As per the PFI Contract, the site management team (Interserve Facilities Management) are responsible for the clearing of ice and snow from the academy site as well as the gritting of paths, drive ways and steps. This will be completed as part of a pre-planned schedule though reactive clearing and gritting will continue throughout the day to minimise the risk of injury to staff, students and visitors.

Students will be permitted to access the usual external areas of the academy site though they will be warned about the dangers and risks prior to this. Playing externally (i.e. building snowmen) will be permitted on the MUGAs only and under the supervision of authorised members of staff. The Principal may stop the use of external areas at any point where conditions or behaviour of students warrants it.

Information for Teaching & Associate Staff

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, the primary concern of the academy must always be the safety of students and staff. Given that most of our students live within a short walking distance of the academy, it is expected that all staff will 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 school time. If staff are going to be delayed, they should contact the staff absence line and advise of the time they will arrive.

On arrival, all teaching staff should sign in at main reception and proceed with their routines as usual. Should the normal timetable be suspended, a programme of activities will be organised for students who arrive at school which staff may be delegated to cover. Information will be relayed to staff via email as and when it is available.

Where a decision is taken to close the academy before the start of the day, staff will be notified by text message by 6.45am and the usual notification procedures will be implemented (see section 'Academy Closure before the start of the day'). It is the responsibility of staff to ensure their contact details are accurate and up to date at all times. Where a decision to close is taken during the day, staff will be given instructions by the Principal via email.

As always, staff members are asked to be careful when travelling to and from the academy, especially when driving and approaching the school site on Whingate Road and the Heights/Farrow housing estate which can be dangerous in snowy conditions.