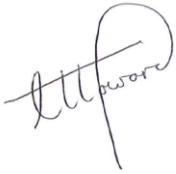




## MANOR INFANT SCHOOL & NURSERY

<b>Approval By:</b>	School
<b>Review Frequency:</b>	3 years
<b>Next Review Due:</b>	November 2020
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017
<b>CHAIR OF GOVERNORS &amp; HEADTEACHER TO COMPLETE</b>	
<b>Review Approved (signature):</b>	
<b>Date Approved:</b>	5.9.17

### Procedures: Severe Weather

*'Valued as Individuals, Inspired as learners'*

#### **Rationale**

Many schools and nurseries face difficulties in maintaining a normal service during extreme weather conditions, such as a heavy snowfall, icy roads/pavements, very high winds, widespread flooding. This is primarily because school and nursery staff tend to live further away from the school/nursery than pupils and often have difficulties getting to school/nursery. In these circumstances, the decision to close the school/nursery is based upon whether there are sufficient members of staff to supervise the children adequately and safely.

#### **Guidance**

Local and national guidance to Headteachers, however, is that they should remain open wherever possible, to minimise the disruption to children's education and inconvenience to parents and carers. Headteachers are required to weigh up the risks of reduced supervision, late journeys home and minor accidents, against the disruption to pupils' learning caused by a closure. It is this careful risk assessment which will ensure that a carefully balanced decision is made. Nevertheless, the Headteacher and Chair of Governors have complete discretion to close the school in anticipated adverse conditions that would put children or adults at risk.

The national cold weather plan is available here;

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/652564/Cold Weather Plan 2017.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/652564/Cold_Weather_Plan_2017.pdf)

## **Communication**

Where possible the school and nursery will contact parents to let them know of such a decision at the earliest possible opportunity and every care will be taken to ensure that pupils are not sent out in dangerous conditions. On rare occasions, should the school/nursery need to close then a message will go out on local radio stations (BBC Radio Solent, Heart FM), Portsmouth City Council website [www.portsmouth.gov.uk](http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk) and the school's own website. Parents will also be informed via the school's texting service. If possible and safe, then notices will also be posted on the school/nursery gates. School and nursery staff will be informed by phone.

If on the rare occasion the school/nursery is forced to close at a time within the school day, parents/carers will be informed first by text message, then by individual telephone call.

Late opening/early closure is a possibility in poor weather conditions and the school and nursery will either inform parents the night before (by letter or text) or through the school's website or media communications as listed above.

If conditions worsen during the school/nursery day and parents feel it is absolutely necessary to collect children, the school and nursery should if possible be contacted prior to collection. Unless it is felt to be a question of health and safety, the early collection of children should be avoided. The overriding factor at all times will be the health and safety of pupils, families and school/nursery staff.