



# HERITAGE HOUSE SCHOOL

## ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

**Approved by:**

**Date:** [ 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 ]

**Last reviewed on:**

**Next review due by:**

## **School closures**

On the rare occasion, especially during the colder months, we may have to make the decision to close the school due to poor weather conditions and dangerous road conditions leading to health and safety issues for our learners – this can also include, but is not limited to electricity faults and boiler breakdown. This is never a decision that is made lightly and is only concluded as a last resort after consulting the weather forecast, local authority and transport services that bring our learners to school each day.

As our school site is based high in the Chiltern Hills, we must consider how quickly the weather can change and what impact it can have on the roads, the school, our learners and their families.

## **Communication with parents, transport providers and the local authority**

The decision to close the school is made as soon as possible and every effort is made to do so prior to 7.30am. When the decision is made, the local authority is notified and the information is posted on the Bucks County Council website ([www.buckscc.gov.uk](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk)). Once we have submitted this information on-line this will automatically notify local radio stations, officers within the Local Authority, Communication Team and Passenger Transport if necessary, and will be posted on the council's website for the benefit of parents and staff. This is by far the most effective way of ensuring that details of the closure are circulated quickly. We will also text parents as soon as possible, as well as update our social media channels.

Occasionally, we may have to close schools during the day to ensure learners get home before weather becomes severe. In such cases arrangements will be made via Passenger Transport services and Parents/Carers. If learners leave school early, parents will be contacted to ensure someone is at home to receive them.

## **Emergency contacts**

Please ensure that the school is kept up to date with your phone number, as well as emergency contacts.

## **Reporting absences**

When conditions are questionable and school is open, the final decision as to whether your child attends school that day always rests with the parent or guardian. Learner absences must be reported to the school reception by phone 01494 771 445 or email [office@heritagehouse.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@heritagehouse.bucks.sch.uk)