



The Ark is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Snow and Bad Weather Policy

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow the prime concern of The Ark 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. We will always endeavor 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 Pre-school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavor to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. If a parent is unable to bring a child to school due to inclement weather they should inform the pre school a.s.a.p.

In the event of snow/bad weather, parents should check to see if the school is open before travelling to the site. There are a number of ways to confirm whether the school is open or closed.

Read emails. An email will be sent to all parents to confirm that The Ark is closed.

Look on The Ark's Facebook page or website. We will post a 'The Pre-school is closed today due to bad weather' warning as soon as we are able.

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 (3.45). However, this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In which case parents will receive a text and an email 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. The nominated adult should come with the families chosen password.

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. However, in these circumstances, if staff are on their way, parents will be asked to stay until adequate staffing ratios have been reached.

For Staff.

It is expected that all staff who live locally make every effort to get to school during bad weather but we understand that in certain circumstances they may need to care for dependents. In this situation they must inform the head teacher immediately so the Head can make an informed decision with regards ratios.

In the event of inclement weather the head teacher will liaise and after taking into consideration local conditions and advice, will decide whether it is safe to keep the Pre-school open, or to re-open on following days .

They will inform all staff using the WhatsApp group chat and they will update regularly throughout the day.

Edward Cumming Bruce, as chairman of the Trustees, will also be informed.

At School

The head will run an immediate risk assessment making notes on carpark area/ playground area and alley way. Salt will be laid, if available, on all walk ways.

Heating will be checked.

Regular checks will be made throughout the day.

Children will be allowed to play in the snow providing they are suitably clothed and the field is deemed a 'safe' environment without undue risk.