



## St Philomena's Catholic School

### Severe Weather Policy – amended due to COVID-19

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, ice or flooding, the primary concern of the school will always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The start time of the school day may be amended to allow sufficient time to make the school grounds safe.

The decision whether to send a pupil to school must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of childcare. If parents make the decision to travel in, it doesn't matter what time their child(ren) arrive(s). We will expect children to arrive throughout the morning. However, if arriving after 9.30am, it is important that children are signed in and registered at the school office.

The school aims to remain open in the event of severe weather, but we cannot guarantee a normal school day. If the school is open, and once we have established which pupils we have on site, we will construct a schedule for the day which includes, where possible, relevant academic work and a range of activities aimed at making the day as productive as possible.

There are, however, certain factors which may lead to the school closing, such as whether:

- The school grounds are sufficiently safe for pupils, parents and staff.
- The school has sufficient heating, lighting and hot water.
- There are enough members of staff to be able to provide satisfactory care.
- The severity of the weather conditions means it is unlikely many people will be able to make it into school.
- External agencies such as the Police, local government and motoring organisations are advising against school travel in our region.

During the current Coronavirus pandemic, and the need to keep children allocated to separate bubbles, if a class teacher is unable to travel to school, parents may be asked to keep their children at home. The provision of remote learning will continue for all pupils.

#### **In the unlikely event of the school closing:**

Parents and staff will be notified via ParentMail and ClassDojo by 7am.

BBC Essex will be contacted and if the school is closed this information should appear on their website.

There is no need for parents to contact the school regarding their decision to travel or not. This will help avoid blocked phone lines.

#### **If conditions worsen throughout the day:**

If severe weather conditions develop during the school day we will consider closing the school early, but we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day at 3.30pm for Reception Class and 3.45pm for all other year groups. This will be communicated to all parents via ParentMail and ClassDojo.

If parents wish to collect their child(ren) from school before this time, they are welcome to do so, but they must ensure they are signed out at the school office.

Anyone struggling to collect their child by 3.45pm due to poor road conditions or transport arrangements should contact the school to inform us of the likely collection time.