



Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

During periods of severe weather such as flooding or snow the school will aim to remain open for as many pupils as possible. However, it might be necessary to close temporarily due to inaccessibility or risk of injury.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the head teacher using common sense to assess the risks.

The school will be kept open whenever it is safe to do so.

The overriding decision to close the school is made on the basis of child welfare considering;

Pupils travelling to and from school safely;

The site is safe;

There is enough staff to supervise pupils;

Conditions are not considered to be or are not anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

Teaching staff often travel further to school than pupils so can experience difficulties traveling to the site. Without sufficient teachers the school may need to close or be partially open.

If the school is open then there is an expectation for children to attend school. If a child does not attend then the head teacher will make a decision as to whether the absence is unauthorised.

If the school is to close;

1. Parents who have opted in to the text alert system will be notified by text to the closure once the closure has been logged with ECC.
The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.
2. Details will be logged on the school's website by 8am.
<http://www.langenhoeprimaryschool.com>
3. Closure will be notified to the Essex County Council website by the head teacher.
4. Once completed, a notification will then be added to a live feed on the emergency school closures page on the council's website
(<http://www.essex.gov.uk/Education-Schools/Schools/Dates/Pages/Emergency-School-Closures.aspx>).

5. The page will refresh at 6pm each evening and closure lists for the next day will then go live.
6. Essex radio stations will list school closures online and use their airtime to keep people informed. They support schools in getting vital school closure messages out in as many ways as possible, including signposting listeners to the school closures page on the council's website.

Please listen to BBC Radio Essex 95.3 and 103.5 FM and to Heart Essex Radio 96.3 and 102.6 FM for regular updates

The School appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get to school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform of the circumstances that prevents a child coming to school risk their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

All parent/guardian telephone numbers **MUST** be current. New numbers need to be updated with the school office as soon as possible; texting can also be set up via the school office

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

Before and after school opening hours, parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the slopes surrounding the front of the school.

In icy conditions the cleaner in charge will salt wide pathways as follows:

From the large gate to the front entrance;

From the carpark to the front door;

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to children.

In the head teacher's absence the senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

