



Inclement Weather Policy

The Corporation of Oundle School includes both Oundle School, a boarding and day School for pupils aged 11 – 18 and Laxton Junior School, a day School for pupils aged 4 - 11. This policy applies solely to Laxton Junior School.

Introduction

In this policy, inclement weather may refer to extreme temperatures, flooding, storms, wind, snow or any other extreme and non-typical weather.

During inclement weather conditions, Laxton Junior School will remain open for as many pupils as possible. However, it might be necessary to close the school temporarily due to inaccessibility, risk of injury or unsafe staff:pupil supervision ratios. The health and safety of our pupils and staff is paramount.

Laxton Junior School recognises that conditions may prevent staff and pupils from travelling to school and, whilst there is an expectation that staff and pupils should make every reasonable effort to attend, personal health and safety should not be compromised as localised conditions may vary across the catchment area.

National and Regional Weather Warnings

The Met Office warns the public of severe or hazardous weather - which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption and risk to life - through the National Severe Weather Warning Service. The School are signed up to receive email alerts.

Inclement Weather Preventative Measures

To minimise the impact of inclement weather conditions, Laxton Junior School has preventative measures in place supported by the School's support services. This includes, but is not limited to, clearing and salting of pathways, safety checks of trees, closing of areas of the school, and additional safety reminders given to the community.

School Closures

The decision to close the school lies with the Head.

Overnight Adverse Weather

In the event of adverse weather overnight:

- The Head will assess the weather condition before 7.00am
- Families will be alerted to any closures via SchoolPost and text
- The information will also be posted on Twitter
- Families will remain updated with any further information via SchoolPost and/or text

School Day Adverse Weather

In the event of adverse weather during the school day:

- Should weather conditions deteriorate during the school day and it becomes necessary for pupils to leave school early, all parents will be notified via SchoolPost and text
- The school's Twitter will be updated
- Amendments or changes to the normal school timetable may take place to ensure pupil and staff safety
- Parents will be informed via SchoolPost and text if this impacts any collection arrangements, for example: fixtures, extra-curricular activities or Griffin Club
- Where necessary, plans will be made to send staff and pupils home if it becomes apparent that risks to safety are increasing at their home location, even if conditions around the school are acceptable
- If the school remains open during inclement weather, classes/year groups may be combined to account for staff absence
- At all times, Laxton Junior School will do its utmost to minimise disruption to teaching and learning during periods of inclement weather

Attendance

Pupil absence due to inclement weather will be marked as authorised. Morning registers will remain open for a longer period, decided by the Head or Deputy, on mornings where inclement weather has affected the local area.

Outdoor Activities

We believe that there is so much to be learnt from our outside environment, both in terms of skills as well as the personal and emotional development of our pupils. It is always our aim for children to be outside to play and continue their learning and development in the natural world. However, inclement weather may mean that outdoor activities are modified, postponed or cancelled to ensure pupil and staff safety and wellbeing.

Staff at Laxton Junior School will use their professional judgement, alongside information gained from reliable weather sources (such as the Met Office or BBC Weather) to determine if, and how, outdoor activities will take place.

Where inclement weather warnings are in place, the Head or Deputy will make all staff aware and will communicate any actions to be taken regarding outdoor activities (e.g. modification or cancellation).

Clothing and Uniform

It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure:

- Appropriate clothing is available in school for the weather
- Appropriate clothing is available in school for any activity taking place, whether this be a regular activity or one-off event
- All children have full waterproofs and wellington boots in school every day
- Appropriate clothing is available in school for their child's extracurricular activity, especially if this takes place outside; clothing and kit requirements are available via MyEvolve.

It is the responsibility of the staff leading activities, including extracurricular clubs, to ensure that pupils are dressed appropriately for the weather and the activity. Where a child is not dressed appropriately, staff may:

- Attempt to contact parents to provide the appropriate clothing
- Organise for borrowed, spare or lost-property items to supplement the child's kit
- Modify the activity, length or location of the activity to ensure the child's wellbeing and safety
- Find an alternative activity for the child to undertake

Break, Lunch and Afternoon Play

If the Head or Deputy have not given specific instructions regarding inclement weather, staff members on duty at break, lunch or afternoon play will use their professional judgement as to whether it is appropriate to be outside. Where inclement weather means that inside break is required, pupils will return to their classroom and be supervised by staff on duty.

Outdoor Learning

If the Head or Deputy have not given specific instructions regarding inclement weather, the Outdoor Learning Lead or Teacher will use their professional judgement as to whether it is appropriate to undertake the planned Outdoor Learning activities. Staff may decide to modify the length, nature or location of the activity or postpone.

Extracurricular Activities

If the Head or Deputy have not given specific instructions regarding inclement weather, the Club Lead will use their professional judgement as to whether it is appropriate to undertake the planned extra-curricular activities. Staff may decide to modify the length, nature or location of the activity.

Fixtures

If the Head or Deputy have not given specific instructions regarding inclement weather, the Head of PE and Games will use their professional judgement as to whether it is appropriate to undertake the planned fixtures. This decision may be made in conjunction with other schools taking part. As appropriate, information about a change in length or location or cancellation will be communicated to parents via SchoolPost and text.

Links to Legislation and Guidance

The following legislation and guidance has informed this policy and the procedures contained within it:

- [Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings](#)
- [Health and Safety: advice for schools](#)
- [Met Office: Weather Warnings](#)

Linked Policies

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- Health and Safety Handbook
- Health and Safety Manual
- Supervision of Children Policy

Reviewer	SMC
Post of Reviewer	Deputy Head
Review Date	Summer 2023
Reviewed and filed with both Schools	Summer 2023
Next Review (max 3 years)	Summer 2026