

YSGOL WIRFODDOL EGLWYSIG Y MODEL MODEL CHURCH IN WALES SCHOOL

Mission Statement

The Model Church in Wales School's mission is to work within a Christian ethos to nurture and develop all that is best in our pupils providing them with a sure foundation for their future.



Inclement Weather and Hazardous Conditions Policy

Policy confirmed by the Governing body of Model Church in Wales School on:

Date:

Signed: (Chair of Governors)

..... (Headteacher).

Reviewed: 17th October 2024 Panel: Policy Committee

"Jesus our 'Model',
Helps us to share
Learning and Kindness,
Friendship and care"

Inclement Weather and Hazardous Conditions Policy

Ethos of the School

The Model Church in Wales School is a Voluntary Aided School. Trusting in God we aim to:

- Ensure that each child realises his or her full potential
- Meet the needs of individual children in a caring Christian environment
- Develop mutually supportive links between home and school and Church and the wider community
- Develop confidence, independence, and self-esteem, together with respect for all people
- Provide high quality teaching and stimulating learning opportunities
- Establish high expectations of attitude, behaviour and achievement
- Prepare children for their responsibilities as good citizens and develop their awareness of their role in the wider community.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. It is the policy of the Model School to remain open unless there is a risk to the health and safety of staff and pupils.
- 1.2. The Headteacher is delegated by the Governing Body to make the decision to close the school due to inclement weather conditions in the immediate locality. The Headteacher will notify the Chair of Governors of the decision made and consult if there is doubt.

2. Criteria

- 2.1. The decision to close the school could be taken on the basis of one or more of the following criteria:
 - Prolonged and excessively high temperatures (e.g. 35 Degrees Centigrade)
 - Prolonged and excessive low temperatures (e.g. Minus 15 Degrees Centigrade)
 - Prolonged and excessive high winds that render travel dangerous (e.g. 60 miles per hour)
 - Prolonged and excessive snow fall or ice resulting in public transport being cancelled and travel to school not being possible or safe
 - Excessive and prolonged rainfall/flooding resulting in public transport being cancelled and travel to school not being possible or safe

- Where a significant proportion, e.g. 50% or more, of pupils/teaching staff are ill and classes cannot be covered/the closure of the school would prevent the spread of illness.
- Other unforeseen circumstances which could impact the health and safety of pupils

3. How parents will be notified that the school will be closed

Closure before the school day:

- 3.1. If the school is to be closed, parents will be notified by eg:
 - Notifying the Local Authority who will put the information on their website <http://schoolclosures.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/>
 - School website
 - School Facebook
 - Google Classroom
 - E-mail to whole school
- 3.2. Such an event is highly unlikely and will be avoided where possible. There is no need for parents to contact the school to check whether or not the school is open. Unless announced in the ways described above the school will be open.
- 3.3. While we understand parental concerns, it would be helpful if parents/carers were aware of the difficulty for an office potentially responding to literally hundreds of calls.
- 3.4. Parents should not telephone the school at these times unless there is an emergency.

Closure during the school day:

- Should the weather turn worse during a school day, pupils will only be sent home if there are satisfactory arrangements for them returning safely.
- Parents will be notified of school closure using the e-mail messaging system using contact details supplied by parents. Also, on Google classroom and the schools Social Media.
- Using the family lists, parents will be contacted by telephone and informed of the closure. The list of families to contact is to be found in the Admin office in the file entitled "Severe/weather/hazardous conditions/school closure".
- The school will release pupils to adults, who come to collect them if they are on the child's list of people authorised to collect them or with written/phone consent from the parents.

4. Actions for staff if the school is to close

- If the school is to close for weather related reasons, staff who travel furthest will be released at the earliest opportunity.
- At least 2 staff including a member of the SLT should remain until all pupils have been collected in both phases.
- Staff will be contacted if the school is closed using contact details supplied by the office.
- Kitchen staff should notify their suppliers of closure.
- If the school is open and staff are unable to reach school for health and safety reasons, they should contact the Head and work at home. Such time should be used for work purposes.

5. Staff responsibilities for dealing with early closure during the school day

- 5.1. The Headteacher or person in charge will communicate a decision to close to all staff including the cook via
- 5.2. email. Non-class based staff will support the office to contact parents.
- 5.3. Where a child is known to live some distance from the school, every effort will be made to contact their parents as a priority.
- 5.4. At least 2 staff from each phase (preferably including a SLT member) will stay on site until all children have been collected.