Worth Valley Primary School
Snow and Adverse Weather Policy

We will always endeavour to keep our school open and operating as normal. However, in the event of severe adverse weather, it may be necessary to make a decision to close the school for the safety of the children and staff.

This plan aims to prevent:

- Unnecessary risks travelling to and from school (through good communication)
- The stranding of pupils and staff
- Excessive impact on children's education
- Accidents on the school site

Policy

It is Worth Valley Primary School's policy that we will open on all normal school days, even when some poor road conditions exist. However, in the event of severe or adverse weather, we cannot guarantee that staff will be able to attend school. Therefore, a decision to close or restrict school opening may have to be made. It is likely that we would have to close our Nursery and Pre-School classes if we have heavy snow or severe ice, due to the high legal staffing ratios required for non-compulsory school age children. Many of our teachers travel some distance to the school and we simply would not have sufficient staff to open Nursery or Pre-School should road conditions prove difficult.

Decision

The decision to open or close the school will be taken by the Headteacher and CEO and will be made by 7.15am. This decision will be based on an inspection of the school site by the Site Manager, an analysis of road conditions around the school and consideration of the weather forecast for the rest of the day. Parents and carers will then be advised that the school is either open or closed. A delayed opening may be considered. The decision will be final.

If the weather conditions are severe enough to force closure, this will be communicated to parents, carers and staff by the following means:

- Via text message to parents/carers and staff.
- Through the Bradford Schools Online website: **https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/Home.aspx#schoolclosures**
- On the school's Facebook pages
- On the school's website

Parents and carers are asked to exercise extreme caution when bringing their children to school and should walk through the school grounds with great care. Staff will do their best to remove snow and ice, however this may not always be possible and parents should be mindful that this will not completely remove the risk of slips and falls.

We will relax our normal high expectations of punctuality and no child will receive a late mark. At the end of the school day, children should be collected from their normal exit as usual (unless informed otherwise by our text messaging service). There will be no after-school clubs or staff meetings. Parents and carers who wish to collect their children early due to road conditions or worsening weather may do so from the main office.

On such days, children's access to the school playground and outdoor areas may be restricted for Health and Safety reasons. Parents and carers are reminded to ensure that their children have warm coats, hats, gloves and suitable footwear for the weather conditions.

Communication

Once a decision is made, the school phone system is likely to be very busy and it may not be possible to get through. *Could we ask that parents do not contact school by phone to check if we are open. Please use the forms of communication listed above.*

If the school is closed, a member of staff (where possible) will be available at school to ensure that messages and communication are maintained for the first few hours of closure.