**Adverse Weather Policy**

At Gore Glen Primary we ensure safety of our children, families and staff are a priority. This means that we need to ensure we have planning in place in case of severe or adverse weather.

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible. The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Director, Education, Communities and Economy. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.

2. Conditions on site are dangerous

3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel

If after taking local advice it is decided to close the school, information will be available from Midlothian Council website at www.midlothian.gov.uk and local media, including Forth Radio or Black Diamond FM.

At a school level we try to keep you up to date through:

• Text

• Seesaw

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

**The Policy at Gore Glen Primary School for adverse weather conditions is that:**

**At the start of the school day**

Wherever possible the school will remain open, however due to road conditions some staff may be late arriving and the start of the school day could be affected. Registers are not closed on snow days until 10.30am. Please travel to school safely. We ask parents to work in partnership with us as routines will obviously change on these days. Parents are encouraged to check Midlothian Council website or listen to the local radio for details of any closure. Staff will endeavour to answer the telephone but it might not be possible if limited staff have arrived at school before the school day starts.

All reasonable attempts will be made to make entrances clear and safe for staff, parents and pupils. However, in some circumstances, alternative entrances for pupils may be needed. We will aim to communicate this to parents via Seesaw as far in advance as possible. This may mean children are to enter the building via a different route than usual. This is to ensure the safety of all.

**During the school day**

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 text messaging and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances. Should a parent not be able to be contacted or a child cannot be picked up by parent/carer, additional contacts provided by parents for collection purposes throughout the year will be used as the next means of communication.

**It is important the school has your most current emergency contact details.**

**Gritting**

Pupils are encouraged to go outside in most weather conditions and should have waterproofs etc when the weather is wet or snowy. When the playgrounds are particularly wet or icy, pupils may not be allowed outside at break times for their own safety. The janitor will do their best to salt main pathways to the school. We cannot salt the whole playground. We would therefore recommend that staff, parents and pupils treat all path and playground areas as potential slip hazards and take appropriate precautions in cold weather.

**Arrangements for transported pupils**

Some children are taken to and from school by taxi. If the taxi driver does not feel that the roads are safe to travel on, they will inform the Head Teacher of this. Families will also be contacted by taxi driver and this will be confirmed by HT.

**Arrangements for liaison with catering staff**

Contact details are shared between HT and Catering Supervisor. In the event of school closure to children, BACS payments will be paid to those entitled to Free School Meals.

**Procedures for school closure, including provision for the care of pupils who cannot be sent home**

If the school needs to close during the school day, families will be contacted through the text messaging service and Seesaw. Families will be advised which door they should come to collect their child. Arrangements for staff to make their way home safely will begin in a systematic and safe way. Activities specific to levels have been created for children to access from home. These will be posted online for children to complete.

**Arrangements for coping with a reduced staffing complement**

Support staff and SLT will support classes. Classes may need to combine to ensure that there is appropriate support for children. HT will oversee organising of cover and will be aware of class numbers.

**Learning at home**

If children are prevented from coming to school due to adverse weather conditions, Gore Glen Primary School will move to a Remote Learning platform. Remote learning is the term being used to describe when learners and teachers are not physically present together in the traditional classroom environment. As a school, we will continue to support our children’s learning and provide planned activities and resources via our school website.

**Learning Expectations**

Teachers and ELC staff will provide Remote Learning Grids for their level which will have range of activities on them. These should include:

• Learning activities linked to core areas of the curriculum Health and Wellbeing, Literacy and Numeracy.

• Learning across the curriculum activities which could be linked to interdisciplinary project or stand along activities.

• Tasks will be accessible online via our school website as not all learners will have a printer to have a paper copy.

• Creative activities should be opened ended, allowing learners to use resources which they have access to at home and do not require purchasing anything to be able to complete the activity.

• Activities and tasks which are handed in should be marked by teachers and learners should receive high quality feedback including next steps in their learning

Our remote learning programme to support learners during adverse weather will include:

**ELC Setting**

• Upload a learning grid that parents can engage their children in. The activities will detail the intended learning and reference any required resources.

• Throughout the week, we encourage children to share their remote learning through Seesaw and receive feedback from ELC staff.

**P1 and P2**

• Upload a learning grid online. The learning grid will detail intended learning, activities, learning prompts and reference required resources or web links.

• If any parents have any questions or require support with Remote Learning, you can contact teachers through our school email account at [Goreglen.PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Goreglen.PS@midlothian.gov.uk)

**P3-P7**

• Upload the learning grid online. The learning grid will provide an overview of the intended learning, detailing the activities, learning prompts and reference required resources or web links. If necessary, the learning tasks will be uploaded into clearly labelled folders, Literacy, Numeracy, Learning Across the Curriculum and Other Activities.

• The Google Classroom should only be used for the purpose of teaching and learning. There is a classroom stream where teachers will post announcements, including their weekly learning grid. Children can use this stream to ask questions and discuss learning tasks. This is not compulsory and is up to individual choice. Children are reminded to follow the Remote Learning Code of Conduct when using this feature.

• If any parents have any questions or require support with Remote Learning, you can contact teachers directly our school email account at [Goreglen.PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Goreglen.PS@midlothian.gov.uk)