

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy



Inclement Weather Policy

VISION

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy are excited to thrive as a caring, interdependent community that is proud to be Welsh.

MISSION

Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy provides a holistic Welsh-medium education that is child-centred.

VALUES

Belong - We belong to the community here in Monmouth and to the wider cultural community of Wales.

Care - We care about ourselves, each other, and our environment.

Thrive - We thrive because we are ready to succeed and are responsible for our own choices.

Inclement Weather Policy

At Ysgol Gymraeg Trefynwy we recognise that inclement weather can impact on our children's education and wellbeing. We make every effort to minimise disruption to the pupil's education when affected by inclement weather but the safety of our pupils and staff always remains at the forefront of any decision. Our Inclement Weather Policy follows Monmouthshire County Council Guidelines.

The working arrangements are not intended to cover every weather eventuality that might arise. This would be an impossible situation given the vagaries of Welsh weather. However, this document will give all staff guidance in dealing with the most exceptional weather conditions affecting school and describes current practices and working arrangements. School always makes good use of the weather advice issued to schools by the Met Office and Monmouthshire County Council.

School Closure Notification

The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher following consultation with the Headteacher/ Caretaker of Overmonnow Primary School and Chair of the Governing Body if possible. The decision to close the school is not taken lightly and will be made with due regard to the well-being of all children, staff and parents, in making the journey to and from school and of course when in school.

In the event of the school having to close suddenly due to weather conditions (or any other condition) all staff and families will be notified via email and a notice will be posted on the Monmouthshire County Council web site.

In the event of the school closing during the day all parents will be notified by email that the school will close early in the first instance and arrangements should be made for children to be collected. Children will not normally be sent home independently. If families do not contact the school/collect their child from school within the first 30 minutes, we will use the contact information from the pupil consent forms to arrange collection. Staff who live furthest from school will be sent home once a significant number of children have been collected and safe staffing levels can be maintained.

Notification that the school is to reopen will be posted on the Monmouthshire County Council web site and sent via email.

Snow, Frost and Ice

The following applies when the school remains open;-

- At the start of the day the Caretaker will clear safe pathways to the main entrance the school's gritting machines and snow shovels; In the event of frost not melting then gritting of the yard may happen later if required. However, this may not be done if further significant weather is forecast and gritting of large areas will be futile.

- If yards remain unsafe due to ice etc. the children will not have outdoor play and will remain inside. All pupils will leave school via the main entrances where the pathways will have been treated, as described.
- In the event of school being open and there is still snow lying on the ground, a dynamic risk assessment will be carried out by staff, and if it is considered safe, the children and staff will take the children outside to use this wonderful natural resource to enhance learning experiences.
- Children will not use the yard if it is covered in significant areas of slushy snow and ice due to the significant risk of slipping. However, they may still use other areas of the school grounds, which are safe for other outdoor learning if they are dressed appropriately.

Windy Weather

- Children will be kept inside if the wind is so strong that there is significant danger of damage to surrounding buildings, property, fences etc. and the outdoor learning environment becoming unsafe as a result.
- Certain groups of children (*the youngest, smallest and most frail*) will also be kept indoors if the wind is not going to cause structural damage etc. to the surrounding but is strong enough to put this group of pupils at risk of being hurt.

Wet Weather

- In the event of light drizzle children will be allowed to use the outdoors for learning and at playtime.
- Children will not play outdoors in the event of heavy torrential rain. However, children may continue to work outside in rain (heavier than drizzle but not torrential) if they are wearing appropriate wet weather clothing.
- Staff will exercise their own discretion here and consider the well-being of children and adults. If in doubt, the children will remain inside.
- In the event of a sudden heavy downpour and children are already outside – the children will be brought back into the school building in a safe, calm and orderly manner.

Cold Weather

- Children should come to school dressed appropriately for the weather conditions and in most cases, children will be able to go outside for the short breaks we have. However, in the event of exceptionally cold and windy conditions those children who wish to, will be able to stay indoor under supervision.
- Staff will make a judgement regarding this type of weather. A particular element to consider will be the wind chill factor. A low temperature but with little or no wind may allow children to go outdoors whilst a slightly higher temperature accompanied by a biting cold wind (with increased wind chill factor) may mean that some children will wish to stay indoors.

Hot Weather

- During the summer months children and adults are encouraged to wear suitable clothing including hats etc. when outdoors. Children will not be outside for sustained periods in the open sun, thus minimising the risk of over exposure.
- Parents are responsible for covering their children with sun protection before the school day. There may be exceptional circumstances when school may facilitate this, such as during a residential school trip.
- Children are always encouraged to drink plenty of water throughout the day.

Arrangements For Supervising Children Kept Indoors At Breaktime

- Children must be supervised at all times whether indoors or outside;
- Children will be supervised in the classrooms and/or the school hall as appropriate in the event that they remain indoors at break times.

To be reviewed biannually

Signed

Headteacher

Chair of Governors

Date