ADVERSE WEATHER IN WINTER :

Website link to this document:

https://www.nhgs.co.uk/storage/app/media/Parents/Absence%20Reporting/Adverse%20Weather.pdf

The safety of students at the school is the primary concern, and all decisions taken have that criterion as their priority. However, working life must go on, and we will not close the school except where children's safety is at risk. In deciding how to manage our response to adverse weather conditions, we are almost entirely dependent on the providers of the buses serving the school. Decisions about closure will be made in conjunction with the various agencies that organise buses that serve the school.

The following guidelines should be observed, please, in readiness for winter:

1. On Day 1 of snowfall, we will try to be open if the health and safety of students and staff is not compromised. We will use our Twitter account, the website, and will email/text to inform everyone of whether the school is open or closed. Usually this decision will be made by 6.00am and only in exceptional circumstances will this decision be changed.

2. Your decision is whether or not to send your son or daughter to school, and our guidance here is that learning and teaching must go on as normally as possible. However, if, in your judgement, your child would be in danger if you sent them to school, we would wish you to keep your child at home. Only you can make that decision, and it depends very much on where you live. The geography of the local area means that conditions can vary considerably across even short distances. Sometimes NHGS is above the snowline when lower-lying areas are fully clear.

3. The school will use its Twitter account (https://twitter.com/@nhgs), its website (www.nhgs.co.uk), and email/text messages to keep parents/carers, staff and students informed of what is happening. On the first day of closure due to snow, students are asked to use the time to consolidate current learning, revise and generally "catch up" on any outstanding work. From a second day of closure onwards (due to snow) teachers will set remote learning via the Google Classrooms. Students will be expected to check their emails regularly and complete the work set. In these circumstances, there will be no expectation on staff to run Google Meets as many will not have access to the right equipment at home. School closures can also be checked on the Calderdale Council website at:

   http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/education/closures/status.jsp?establishment=SCH

4. We understand that some students may arrive late if conditions are difficult, and we prefer lateness to absence. On snowy days we will also relax our rules on footwear so that students can attend in boots or other sturdier, warmer shoes in case they are required to walk longer distances to/from buses.

5. All students should come with plans to: use a friend's house as a base from which to make telephone calls, if necessary; walk, if necessary; pay bus fares if necessary; meet parents at a pre-arranged venue, if necessary.

6. Parents should PLEASE not ring school to find out what the position is re early closure. This simply means that our lines become blocked and no one can ring in or out. Please make your arrangements IN ADVANCE: e.g. "If it snows and school closes early, you go to …..'s house, and you telephone from there."

7. If you need to contact the school to alert us that your child is unable to attend due to adverse weather when the school is still open, please report via Edulink (the quickest way), use our dedicated email address, absence@nhgs.co.uk or telephone the school on 01422 244625. If telephoning the school, please just leave the following information:

   1. Child's name
   2. Child's form
   3. Reason for absence: adverse weather.

   This way, the School Office Administrators can get through the messages quicker to ensure all students' whereabouts are logged for safeguarding purposes. Please be alert to the weather. Students will be reminded of the need to make arrangements for such eventualities, in advance, during the autumn term.