

## **Inclement Weather Policy**

Halton Waldorf School

Updated: January 2025

At Halton Waldorf School, the safety of our students, staff, and families is of utmost importance. This policy outlines the procedures and guidelines for school closures or schedule changes due to inclement weather, ensuring clear communication and safety for all community members.

### **1. Decision-Making Process**

The decision to cancel classes, delay school openings, or close early will be based on the following factors:

- Weather forecasts and alerts issued by Environment Canada.
- Road and traffic conditions in Burlington and surrounding areas.
- The ability of staff and families to travel safely to and from school.
- Local school board closures (e.g., Halton District School Board and Halton Catholic District School Board) as a reference point.

### **2. Communication**

- Parents and staff will be informed via email through the school's communication system.
- Updates will also be posted on the school's website, Facebook and Instagram.

#### **Timing of Communication:**

- Morning cancellations will be announced by 6:30 AM.
- Early closures will be communicated as soon as the decision is made.

### **3. School Closures**

- Full-Day Closure: In severe weather (e.g., heavy snowfall or ice storms), the school will close for the day. All in-person classes and extracurricular activities will be cancelled.
- Remote Learning will not be offered.

### **4. Early Closures**

- If weather conditions worsen during the school day, the school may close early. Parents/guardians will be notified immediately, and arrangements should be made to pick up children promptly. The After Care Program will be cancelled on early closure days.

## **6. Transportation**

- If buses are cancelled but the school remains open, parents are responsible for ensuring safe transportation to and from school.

## **7. Parental Discretion**

- Parents/guardians are responsible for considering weather conditions in preparing students for travel to/from school and any outdoor activities. This includes ensuring students come to school with appropriate clothing and footwear, including hats, gloves, winter pants, jackets and boots.
- Parents/guardians are encouraged to use their discretion when determining whether it is safe to travel to school.

## **8. Emergency Preparedness**

- The school will ensure emergency protocols are in place for unexpected closures or shelter-in-place scenarios due to severe weather.
- Staff will remain on-site until all students are safely picked up.

### **Cold Weather Action Plan**

When the temperature or wind chill reaches -28C (20 degrees below 0), students will be granted immediate entry to school upon arrival and remain indoors during recess and gym classes.

### **Hot Weather Action Plan**

When hot weather/environmental triggers occur, HWS will consider indoor or modified recesses.

- the humidex reaches or exceeds 35°C
- Environment Canada issues a heat warning
- there is a smog alert and higher temperatures (27-30°C) or

### **Extreme Rain, Hail and Lightning Action Plan**

Students will remain indoors during extreme rain, hail, lightning or thunderstorms.

By adhering to this policy, we aim to minimize disruptions while prioritizing the safety and well-being of our school community. If you have questions or require further clarification, don't hesitate to get in touch with the school office at [reception@haltonwaldorf.com](mailto:reception@haltonwaldorf.com)