

Guidance for snow and adverse weather conditions

Mission Statement

We follow in Jesus' footsteps, as we care for each other when we work, play and pray.

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 Principal in conjunction with the Chair.

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 the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Birmingham City Council website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the <http://disruption.birmingham.gov.uk/list-of-birmingham-schools/>

School closures are also announced on Local Radio between 7:00 and 8:30 a.m. If you are unsure whether school will be open please listen to BRMB (94.6FM) www.free.co.uk, BBC Radio WM (95.6 FM) www.bbc.co.uk/birmingham/local_radio or Heart FM (100.7 FM) www.heartfm.co.uk.

2. Closure due to adverse weather will be posted up on the school website
3. All parents who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using text service activated by the Principal once the closure has been logged with the City Council.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence. 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 phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/children. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before and after school parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the Premises Staff will salt wide pathways as follows:

- A) path and steps from the playground and along the front of the building.

- B) from the top of the playground to the pedestrian gate and to the path next to the adventure play area.
- C) the pavement from the building to the electric gates.
- D) the pathway route to the sunshine club.

Essential pathways will be kept as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the Premises Staff, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School Hall will be open from 8.35 am for the children to go inside after being dropped off by the gate.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of school, and if the Principal decides it necessary, at break times as well.

Children should come to school in boots or wellingtons in bad weather and bring a pair of light shoes to change in to. In snowy weather for health & safety reasons we do not allow sliding or throwing of snowballs because if children fall or get covered in snow they are then wet and uncomfortable throughout the day. Where possible, if children have suitable footwear, they go outside to enjoy the snow for at least a part of lunchtime and playtimes.

In the Principal's absence the Vice Principal on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Snow and Bad Weather Policy.