



Snow and Extreme Weather Policy

St Mary's Church of England (A) Primary School promotes the safeguarding and welfare of all students in its care: all policies support the "Safeguarding Policy", are fully consistent with the "Every Child Matters" agenda, and fully support the principles of equal opportunities for all.



Arrangements for Winter

The following arrangements are put into operation at school, during days when we experience disruption caused by severe snow or extreme weather.

Snow Day Information

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors will make the decision to close the school based on the weather within the school vicinity. In the event the school is closed the HT will contact Jane Sellman, office services manager.

- A text **will be** sent to parents (one text per family) before 8.00am if the school is going to close or we are operating any site restrictions.
- Information will be posted on the school website and onto Staffordshire County Council website under school closures.
- If conditions deteriorate during a school day a decision may be made to close the school early. A text will always be sent parents to inform them of any changes.
- If you do not hear from the school, and you have checked the website, then assume it is a normal day and we are OPEN.

Restricted Site Access and Priority Path Clearance

On day(s) we are OPEN but there is some disruption from snow ~~we will do~~ please **note** the following:

- **We will** only open the main front gate and clear the path to the front entrance
- The side gate to the main playground *will* be OPEN but the paths may **NOT** be cleared of snow. Parents who use the back entrance do so at their own risk as this route may **NOT** be gritted **Would it not be simpler to make the decision to close the side entrance if there is any doubt about safety?)**
- Please approach the slope and steps with caution
- Parents should ensure that children use the gritted paths
- From 8.45am children can access classrooms directly through the corridors from the main entrance (and NOT via the playground)

On snow days we ask that parents and children **DO NOT** arrive at school early, i.e. before 8.45am. Only children who attend Breakfast Club or scheduled morning activities should arrive before 8.45am.

Registration on Snow Days

On snow days, if you have received a text to say the school is open but with the restrictions described above, children will not be marked late until after 9.30am. Therefore, **on severe snow days children can arrive between 8.45am and 9.30am**. This flexible start will help avoid congestion on the car park pavements outside school and improve safety. If you do not receive a text then registration is at the normal time of 8.55am.

Early Closing for Snow and Severe Weather Dismissals

If the school needs to close early due to deteriorating weather conditions then a text will be sent to parents. The following procedures will operate:

- Children will remain in ~~their~~ classroom(s) and be supervised by any staff remaining in school in the event that staff living a significant distance from school are sent home **I'm not sure this sounds quite right – any remaining staff might imply if any happen to be left? Should we say something like safe ratios will be maintained?**
- All appropriate entrances and corridors will be opened
- Parents and carers will collect children directly from the classroom.