



Adverse Weather Policy

Ratified by: FINANCE & PREMISES COMMITTEE **Date:** NOV 2022

Next review by: NOV 2025

1. Introduction

It is the policy of the school to remain open whenever possible to ensure the continuity and consistency of the pupils learning. However, when there are adverse weather conditions within the local and wider areas the Headteacher may need to close the school if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Conditions on site are dangerous for pupils or staff
- Conditions are considered too hazardous for travelling to or from school
- Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely

2. Conditions before closure

The school will try to make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed about the situation as things occur. There are a wide range of factors to consider before making the decision to close the school including the following.

The Headteacher will...

- Liaise with JFS to determine if they are opening so that we can use their car park.
- Talk to the Coach Companies to see if they are continuing their service
- Consult with Caretakers to ensure that site is safe
- Consult with Chair of Governors to agree if school is to be closed

3. Communicating decision to close

As appropriate the School will send all parents the Adverse Weather Guidance document (updated from time to time by the Head Teacher) which explains this policy and what parents/children should do.

In the event of a closure, the school will communicate through the following channels:

- The school will send a text directly to parents through its normal channels
- The school will update the Latest News page on the school website stating that the school will be closed.
- The school's Facebook and Twitter status will inform parents of the closure.

- The school will email details of the closure.

The school will endeavour to communicate the decision by 7:30am at the latest. In situations where it is questionable if the school is to close or remain open, the school will similarly communicate its intention to stay open, using the same modes of communication listed above.

4. Exceptional circumstances

The school recognises that there may be cases where families are 'cut off' due to particular difficulties in the area in which they live.

In such cases parents should advise the Headteacher (via admin@sinai.brent.sch.uk) so she can justify to the Local Authority why the absence should be authorised.

5. Early closure due to severe weather forecast

In some instances when the school receives notice that there will be severe weather in the local area e.g. storms, heavy snow or ice, the school may decide in the interests of safety to close the school early to allow time for pupils and staff to travel home in order not to be delayed excessively at school. Releasing pupils early will only be considered in extreme circumstances.

6. The school's site maintenance

The school will in the event of snow clear main pathways on the site. However, parents and visitors are reminded that even when they are cleared, they can remain dangerous and should be careful when walking on them. Pupils will be reminded of this in assembly.

The school caretaker will salt wide pathways as follows:

- From the front gate to the main entrance
- From the Nursery and Reception front doors to the main building
- The main building to the Year 5 and 6 Block
- From the JFS entrance to the playground.

The caretaker will also clear the main body of the playground to ensure that there is an adequate and safe area for pupils to play outdoors, weather permitting. During adverse weather conditions some areas of the playground may be out of bounds for pupils and parents at the beginning and at the end of the school day if deemed unsafe.

7. Lateness

The school appreciates that during bad weather, children may arrive later to school than normal and is understanding of this fact. In the event of children being late (or likely to be late), parents will be reminded to e-mail the school at admin@sinai.brent.sch.uk rather than call the school as this jams the telephone system.

During adverse weather conditions the registers will stay open longer as to allow children access to their classrooms safely.