

## Snow and Bad Weather Procedures

On rare occasions, particularly in winter, the weather can be so severe that getting to and from school becomes hazardous. It is also possible that the weather deteriorates during the course of the day so that it is necessary for students to leave the premises a little early in order to do so more safely.

We are aware that bad weather by its nature is disruptive and can cause anxiety. Therefore any action due to poor weather will be posted immediately on our website and social media pages and communicated by text message to parents/carers.

Please be aware that if many parents/carers ring the school, it can be difficult to answer the calls as the lines can quickly become jammed.

Decisions about closing the school or sending students home early will not be taken lightly. We will always endeavour to open the school when it is safe and practicable to do so.

### **Severe Weather Overnight**

- If the school has to be closed, a message will be read out on local radio stations.
- Closure will also be communicated to parents/carers by text message, messages on our main school switchboard, on our website and the local authority website, and through our social media accounts.
- If any students arrive at school unaware of the closure, a member of staff will be there to help. Students may phone parents/carers without charge to decide whether they should return home or wait to be collected.

### **If Weather Deteriorates During the Day**

- The school will be closed early only in extreme cases.
- The decision to close the school will be made by the Headteacher and senior colleagues, in discussion with the local authority.
- Decisions about early closure will be communicated to staff and students as soon as this is appropriate.

- After consulting the bus companies, students who use school buses will be told of any change to normal routes, so they can decide the best way home.
- Students will be allowed to phone home for advice on what to do.
- Students who can walk home will be sent, preferably in family groups or in the company of other students who live near each other.
- School will be kept open with staff on hand until the last student has left.

**How Parents/Carers Can Help**

- Check the radio / our website / LEA website / our social media / text messages for information communicated by the school.
- Assume school is open if the radio / website / social media / text messages do not announce otherwise.
- Plan ahead with your child what to do in a bad weather emergency.
- Only call the school in bad weather if you really have to – calls in prevent calls out!