



St Martin's School

Snow and bad weather policy



Introduction

This policy outlines our protocol in the case of bad weather including heavy snow. In the event of disruption caused by bad weather, the prime concern of the school is always the safety of the pupils and staff.

School closure before opening

The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavour to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so. If the school is open in snow or bad weather we ask that parents attempt to send their children to school if possible.

School closure during the day

If the school does open, but extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day at 3.40pm. However, this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In this case, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their children as soon as possible. Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for their child/children to be collected by a nominated adult.

Communication

In event of bad weather, parents should check whether the school is open before travelling to the site.

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible, and will intend to reopen as soon as we can.

We will inform parents and teachers by 7.00am if the school will be closed that day.

Parents will be informed by email, text, Twitter and by Facebook posts.

Adjustments

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day, not make it in or be required to leave earlier.

In these circumstances, we will make every effort to cover their lessons, however, normal lessons may be curtailed and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff, particularly if awaiting collection. It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

Playground

In the event that the school is open but the playground is covered in snow and / or ice we will make every attempt to clear the area and grit with suitable gritting / salt products.

We also ask that children come into school wearing the correct winter clothing so the children are able to be outside and make the most of such a wonderful natural experience.

Staff are encouraged to adapt their planning in order to facilitate children experiencing snow in a safe and supervised way.

Summary

St Martin's School staff will do everything safely possible to ensure the opening and uninterrupted continuation of education for our pupils. Where this is not possible, we will take safety focussed, timely decisions and communicate these with parents. Where alterations are made to the operating of the school, these will be dynamically risk assessed and fully communicated to staff, pupils and parents as appropriate.

Written by: Mrs Shannon (Operations Manager)

Ratified by: Governors

Policy date: 8th November 2022

To be reviewed: November 2024