

# St Martin's School

## Snow and bad weather policy

### **Introduction**

This policy outlines our protocol in the case of bad weather e.g. 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 during snow or bad weather conditions we ask that parents attempt to send their children to school if safe to do so.

### **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 will be informed via the class What's app group, social media and an alert on the school website informing them the school will be closed. We will aim to make a decision as early as possible and will inform parents and teachers by 7.00am on the day.

### **Adjustments**

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school if it is safe to do so. 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, may 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.

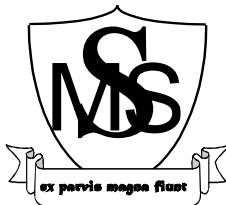
It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

### **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 use suitable de-icing products.

We also ask that children come into school wearing the correct winter clothing and footwear 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, as safely as 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: 8<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

**Reviewed: : November 2024**

**To be reviewed: November 2026**