

Fritchley CE Primary & Nursery School
Adverse Weather Policy (parent version)

Snow & Ice Policy (Parent Version)

Policy Statement

The education of our children is our utmost priority. Wherever possible, Fritchley Primary School will endeavour to ensure that school remains open during adverse weather conditions, providing this can be done in a safe manner that does not give rise to danger to users of the site. Policy at the Fritchley Primary School is to wherever possible make the decision to close the school before the school day commences.

Purpose

- To ensure a clear policy and procedure in relation to operating the school during adverse weather conditions;
- To make clear the grounds for a school closure due to adverse weather conditions;
- To advise and inform parents of the systems and procedures in place in the event of a school closure due to adverse weather conditions.

In the event of snowfall overnight the following considerations will be taken into account before a decision to close is made:-

- Are there are enough members of staff to be able to provide satisfactory care at the appropriate ratios. Safe operating ratios are as follows:-
 - Nursery : 1:13 ratio including 1 teacher
 - KS1: 1:30 ratio including 2 teachers and 2 support staff
 - KS2: 1:32 ratio including 3teachers and 1 support staff
- Are the school grounds sufficiently safe for children, parents and staff;
- Is the severity of the weather conditions on such a major scale that it is unlikely that many people will be able, physically, to make it into school;
- Are school utilities in good working order to provide heating, lighting and water across the site;
- Can the school provide lunch for the children;
- External agencies, e.g. police, local government, motoring organisations, etc., are advising against school travel in our region.

The Senior Leadership Team (usually the Headteacher) will consult regarding closure due to severe weather.

Where a decision to close is made, the *Senior Leadership Team* will ensure that as soon as practically possible:-

- The decision is made as soon as possible – preferably before 7.30am.
- Parents/carers are informed via a text using the Teachers2parents texting facility.
- The school website may well also be updated.
- Closure information is shared with appropriate council websites and radio stations.
- The Headteacher has the overall responsibility for ensuring each has been carried out.

There may be occasion when a late start to the school day will be considered. e.g.

- additional time needed to make the school site safe;
- additional travelling time for staff due to road conditions and the effect on safe operating pupil ratios.

In the event of late opening, parents and carers will be informed using the procedures set out above.

[If the school is to remain closed for a second day, a decision will be made by 6pm the same day.](#)

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day

In extreme circumstances, when adverse weather is predicted or breaks out during the school day, a decision may be made to close the school with immediate effect. The decision to close the school during a working day is not taken lightly but the over-riding principle is the safety of pupils and staff.

Where a decision is taken to close during the school day, parents will be informed in the usual way by Teachers2parents, by updating the website and via the Derbyshire County Council school closures website.

Parents/carers will be expected to make arrangements for their children to be collected as soon as possible.

Clearance of Snow

Within the school site, Fritchley Primary School are responsible for snow clearance: the clearance of school paths is the specific responsibility of the caretaker. When severe weather is forecast, the caretaking staff should be tasked to lay salt/grit on arrival. If heavy snow falls overnight or over a weekend, the Headteacher and caretaker should be in regular contact to ensure the safety of the premises. **The clearance of public roads and public footpaths is the responsibility of the Highways Department and the LA and NOT the school.**

Where the school remains open in snow or ice

When there has been snowfall or the school site is icy and the school remains open, in order to allow for snow clearance and gritting, access to the site for pedestrians will be restricted to:-

- the pedestrian gate and path running alongside the school drive.

The priority for snow clearance/gritting is on the pedestrians routes described above. Any person wishing to drive onto school premises does so at their own risk however every effort will be made to grit these areas where time allows. Drivers are advised when leaving their vehicle to take a direct route onto one of the cleared and gritted pathways.

Playground

During adverse weather conditions, parents and carers are advised to take care if waiting on the playground at morning and collection times.

At the Senior Leadership Team's discretion, the playground may be deemed to be unsafe at break/lunch times as well. The Senior Leadership Team may use the field as an alternative however timing of this would be taken into consideration as it is not deemed appropriate for pupils to be remain in wet clothing for long periods of time.