

South Failsworth Primary School

'Inspiring and Creating Lifelong Learners'



Snow Policy

Approved by the Governing Body: December 2022

Next review date: December 2023

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or adverse weather, the prime concern of the school must always be to ensure the safety of our pupils and staff. The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils, staff and visitors, 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. The safety and well being of our children and staff are of utmost importance to us and any decision to close the school will be taken after we have considered the following:

- are there are enough staff members to be able to provide a proper educational environment; including provision required for children with Additional Educational Needs
- can the school provide lunch for the children in all phases: EYFS, KS1 and KS2
- are the school grounds sufficiently clear of snow/ice to be safe for access
- does the school have heating to the legally required temperature across the whole site
- does the school have lighting and hot water across the whole site

We will also take account of local and national weather forecasts and may base our decision to close (or to remain closed during a prolonged snowy spell) on these.

School attendance

If the school is open in snow or adverse weather the decision as to whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parent, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child care.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances, parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorized absence.

Snowfall overnight

If there is heavy snowfall overnight we will need to decide whether it is safe to open the school. We will do everything possible to make our decision by 7:30am. If we decide not to open, we will notify parents and carers via our school Facebook page and also via our online platforms, Seesaw and Tapestry.

We will also send a 'ParentPay' message as soon as possible. We will inform Oldham Council and they will update school closures on their website.

If possible, we will also put a sign on the school gates, saying that the school is closed and giving any further update or point of contact.

Remote learning

In the event of a school closure due to snow or adverse weather conditions, teachers will communicate with families via our online platforms, Seesaw and Tapestry. Teachers will provide children with learning activities for them to complete at home. Families can also access a wealth of suggested activities via our school website: <https://www.southfailsworth.oldham.sch.uk/covid-19/learning-at-home>

Snowfall during the school day

If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, we will keep the children in school until they are picked up at the end of the day.

We will let parents/carers know as soon as possible (using above methods) whether the school will be open the next day.

If parents/carers want their children to leave school early, they will need to contact the school for the Headteacher's permission. However, we will not allow any child to leave school early without a parent, carer or elected collector.

Where any children have not been collected by the end of the school day, the Headteacher (or Deputy Headteacher and /or class teacher) will remain with those children until their parents/carers arrive. (Please see 'planning ahead' section, below).

Members of school staff who live in vulnerable geographical areas will be invited to go home at the safest opportunity.

Grounds safety in snow

In the event of heavy snowfall the site manager will try to ensure a clear pathway into school and grit the cleared area.

Snow play

We understand the enjoyment that snow brings and believe that children should be allowed to play outside during snowy conditions, as long as school safety guidelines are followed. The Headteacher will decide whether to allow the children to play outside during snowy weather and will arrange for extra supervision in the playgrounds where necessary.

During snow play, we will allow the children to throw snowballs but **they must not throw them at other pupils or members of staff**. Children must not throw ice balls and must not make 'slides' in the snow or ice on the playground.

So that they can safely enjoy snow play, children must be dressed warmly. Please send your child to school with warm, waterproof clothing and Wellington boots.

Please clearly mark your child's name on all boots (as with all clothing etc brought into school). Your child's class teacher will show the children where to keep their boots during the school day.

Planning ahead

Please have the school phone number with you. If you are having difficulty getting to school to pick up your child and you will be more than 15 minutes late, please call us to let us know. We will be able to reassure your child that you are on your way.

If your child normally travels home alone after school and because of the bad weather you want them to wait to be collected, please contact school as soon as possible so that we can get a message to your child and their class teacher before home time.