

Snow and Bad Weather Policy and Procedures

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, the prime concern for Whittington C of E (VA) Primary School will always be the safety of pupils and staff. The decision to lose the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a considerable to school each day.

We will always do our best 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 the decision as to whether or not to send a child 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.

We appreciate 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 they are 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 cases 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 in order 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, risk their child being registered as an unauthorised absence.

In the event of bad weather, parents should check to see if the school is open before travelling to the site. There are a number of ways to confirm whether it is open or closed:

- Check the Latest News area of the School Website: whittingtonschool.co.uk
- Check the updates on Class Dojo: classdojo.com
- Listen for the list of school closures on the local radio: BBC Radio Shropshire 96.00 FM
- Check the list of school closures on the Shropshire Council Website: www.shropshire.gov.uk

If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible and will intend to re-open as soon as we can. If the school does open, but extreme weather develops during the day, we will try to remain open until the end of the normal school day. However, this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In such cases, parents will be contacted and asked to collect their children as soon as possible. Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for your child/children to be collected by a nominated adult. Pupils still in school will be assembled in groups, or as one group, under the supervision of authorised members of staff to await collection.

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