

Inclement Weather Protocols

In the event that there is concern regarding inclement weather the school follows an agreed set of protocols before making a decision that may involve either a delay to the start of the school day or closing the school.

The concern for student and staff safety serves as the overriding factor when these decisions are made.

How do we make our decision?

In the days leading up to a possible weather incident, we monitor local forecasts, both in the evening before the incident and in the early hours. We talk to our local authority, our local primary schools and our school bus providers.

A site inspection will be carried out prior to 7.00 a.m. involving the Site Team, a representative of the school's governing body and a member of the school Leadership Team.

An assessment will be made of the school walkways and outside spaces. We will consider whether or not snow is expected to continue, assess the degree of accumulation, our capacity to clear, treat and make safe parking spaces and walkways and the risk of any potential interruption to our heating or electricity supply.

Many of our students walk to school or face a long wait at a bus stop so consideration will also be given to the temperature and issues affecting pedestrian safety.

We must consider the risk to our least experienced drivers; our school students and travel conditions elsewhere in the borough will also be taken into consideration.

Our school requires a minimum number of staff to be able to operate safely so consideration will be given to how many staff are able to travel safely to school.

If conditions are such that child safety or the safety of staff are at risk the decision will be taken to close the school.

We try to make the decision as early as possible and before 7.00 a.m. on the day of the incident. We will notify local media and post the information on our school website, we will start our automated text system, tweet and issue a Parentmail. We will advise Solihull MBC's Communications Department who will in turn publicise the school closure via their website and through social media. If we believe that the forecasts won't change during the night, we may make the decision to close school the night before. *(If you haven't already done so now might be a good time to update your personal details with the school.)*

Our first buses begin collecting children after 8.00 a.m. so we will work diligently to make the decision as soon as possible and to notify families in advance. We know that waiting much later in the morning limits parents' options when they are making childcare decisions so we will do our best to make decisions as early as possible

If the bad weather continues, every effort will be made to keep the school running to a normal working routine but we will continue to update you regularly.

Sometimes during the course of a school day conditions around the school can deteriorate quickly and we may have to make a decision to close in order to allow children to get home safely and in good time. We realise that some parents will be inconvenienced by a decision to close the school in these circumstances but we endeavour to make that decision based on the best possible information, taking into consideration the advice issued by our school bus providers and with the welfare of students and staff a priority.

Parents should contact school to advise if someone other than themselves will be collecting.

In the most extreme conditions, parents can be assured that their children will remain in warm, safe and dry conditions until the safe collection of their child can be arranged.

Whilst we may make a decision based on local weather conditions to leave our school open, the decision to travel to school rests primarily with the parent/carer.