

Winslow Church of England School

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY



It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

School Closure

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Head Teacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- If insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely, maintaining required ratios (especially in KS1 and EYFS)
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.

If the school is to close, the school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as follows:

The closure will be reported on the school website under Urgent News.

<https://winslowschool.co.uk>

The closure will be recorded on the Buckinghamshire Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the "Today's Closures" page on the Buckinghamshire Council website:

<https://closures.buckscc.gov.uk/>

Local radio stations (Three Counties Radio and Greatest Hits Radio (Beds, Herts & Bucks) will broadcast the closures listed on the Buckinghamshire Council website.

When it is clear that a closure is a possibility, parents are expected to check the websites and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts.

Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

School Open during Adverse Weather Conditions

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal. Parents should contact the school to let them know the children 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 risk their child/children's absence being registered as unauthorised absence.

School Closing During the School Day

In the situation of worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances during the school day, the school may take the decision to close with immediate effect. If this happens, a Parentmail email will be sent out and/or a text to parents asking them to collect their child/children. A closure during the school day will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

Safety of the School Site

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. A snow clearance plan will be displayed on the school noticeboards. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous.

In icy conditions, the site supervisor will endeavour to salt wide pathways as follows:

- a) All access paths into the site and premises
- b) Generic walkways

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day

During adverse weather, pupils will be reminded of unsafe conditions by the class teacher and/or during assemblies. The playground may be made out of bounds to parents and children at the beginning and end of the school day, and if the Headteacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

During drop off and collection, parents are responsible for supervising their children and, in particular, that their children do not make slides in the icy conditions on the school playground or throw snow or snowballs.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils due to snow and ice, the site team will continue to maintain pathways around the school site where practicably possible to prevent build-up of ice and snow.

In the Head Teacher's absence the Senior teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

Reviewed: September 2024

Next Review: September 2026

Appendix 1 – School Procedure for notifying closure

1. ON DAY OF SNOW

- a. by 7am, site manager to have inspected site, and then contact headteacher to agree closure
- b. Headteacher to post closure on SLT WhatsApp group
- c. Headteacher to update Buckinghamshire Council website school closures
- d. SLT to text their teams to inform of closure
- e. Class teachers to send a Class Dojo message to their classes
- f. Office team to send ParentMail to all parents to confirm closure

2. 3PM ON DAY OF SNOW CLOSURE

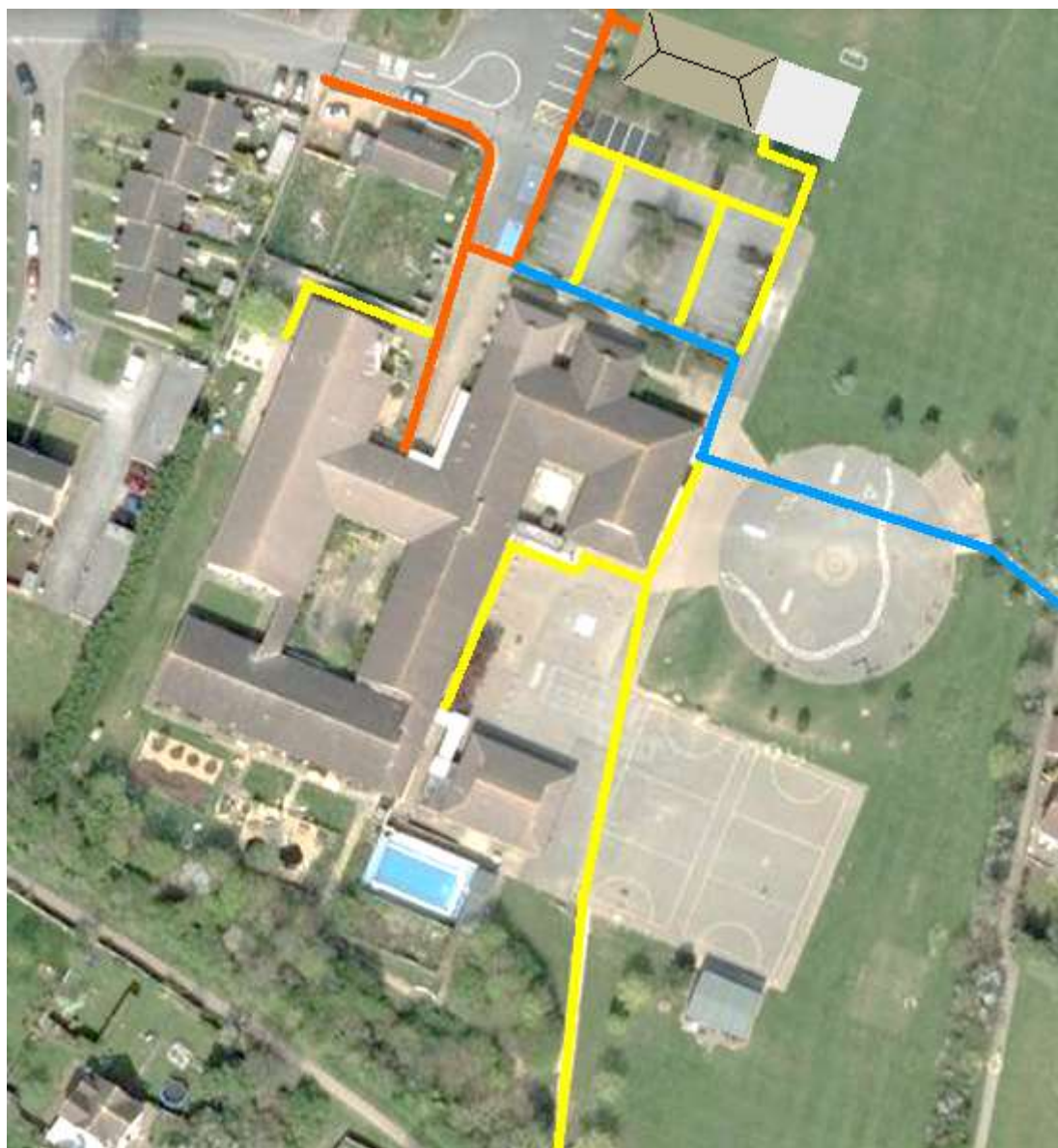
- a. Site manager to inspect site, consult weather forecasts and discuss with headteacher whether school should be closed or start later the next day
- b. Steps b to e above followed to inform staff and parents

Informant	To inform
Headteacher (CC)	SLT on WhatsApp Site Manager
SLT FS / School Business Manager (HT in absence of SBM)	MDS Whatsapp group Office Whatsapp group Also by text: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fresh Start Catering • Treehouse • TFG Music teachers and taxis will be asked to look on Buckinghamshire council website <i>Today's Closures</i> page
SLT / KS1 lead	EYFS and KS1 teachers via WhatsApp group
SLT / KS2 lead	KS2 teachers via WhatsApp group
SLT / SENCO	LSAs via WhatsApp group
SBM	Admin and MDS Team
Site Manager	Cleaners Any other contractors due on site

School Snow and Ice Policy

Please read the following information as this policy will apply in severe weather conditions such as heavy snow or ice which affect the school site

- Primary routes in **RED** will always be cleared if the school is open
- Routes in **BLUE** will only be cleared if resources are available
- Routes in **YELLOW** may be occasionally cleared once other routes are clear



During very severe weather conditions the school will endeavour to text message parents with regard to possible school closures. Alternatively, please visit www.buckscc.gov.uk to check for a possible school closure or listen to **local radio stations** for regular updates. Please also visit the school website www.winslow.bucks.sch.uk for detailed information on which routes into school may be affected or temporarily closed