

GREAT CHESTERFORD C. OF E. PRIMARY ACADEMY



Two are better off than one, because together they can work more effectively.
Ecclesiastes 4:9

Snow and Bad Weather Policy

2026

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or severe weather, the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of pupils and staff. The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a notable 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.

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

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.

In the event of bad weather before the school day starts

The Headteacher will take into account the conditions at the school and the ability of staff to get there before making a decision as to whether the school will open as normal, have a later start time or close for the day. The Headteacher will endeavour to make this decision as soon as possible, by 7:45am, and parents will be updated by an email to parents.

In the event of extreme weather during the school day

If the school does open, but extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day. However, this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In which case, parents will be contacted via email and asked to collect their children as soon as possible.

Under these conditions, we will take verbal permission for their child/children to be collected by a nominated adult.

Staff that live the furthest from the school will be permitted to leave at the earliest opportunity.

Normal lessons may be curtailed and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff to await collection. A skeleton staff will remain in school until all of the children have been collected.

If a parent rings requesting they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not been made to close the school, these requests will be considered on an individual basis by the Headteacher.

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.