

SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY



Approved by:	 Headmaster  Chair of Governors	Date: January 2025
Last reviewed on:	05/01/23	
Next review by:	January 2026	

Note: This policy applies to all sections of the School including EYFS

This policy:

- Is non-contractual in nature;
- Applies to all members of staff except those who have not completed their probationary period;
- Can be adjusted by the School to suit specific circumstances;
- Can be varied unilaterally by the School.

1. INFORMING PARENTS AND STAFF

Website & Social Media announcements

The School will make announcements via the School's website and social media accounts, to advise whether the School is to be closed in adverse weather conditions. When adverse, and potentially hazardous, weather conditions are forecast for the following day, the Senior Leadership Team will make an initial, tentative decision on school closure. Depending on the predicted forecast, the school community will be advised, in advance, that there is a strong possibility that the school will be closed and lessons will be delivered remotely; **once advised, parents and staff should presume that the school will be closed unless they are advised that it is open.** On any given day of adverse, potentially hazardous, weather, a decision will be made as early as possible, and generally by 6:30am, on whether or not the School will be opening. Parents and staff should check the school website to access the most up to date information, please remember to 'Refresh' the page in order to see the latest information.

2. SAFETY FIRST

It is advisable that, if the school is open, all members of the Saint Nicholas Community assess the potential hazards and prioritise their safety, when travelling to or from school. If there are any doubts on this matter, it is recommended that a cautionary approach is taken, especially for families who live in the far reaches of our catchment, or in isolated villages where road conditions can be dangerous. The School recommends that you research your chosen route is clear before departing and that you take extra care if driving on the school grounds, as the driveways and car parks can be icy.

2.1 Informing the school of a child's absence

If parents decide that it is too dangerous to travel, it is necessary to contact the school office before 9:30 am, via email, to message the School about your child's attendance. Please use the school's usual absence procedure using the email address office@saintnicholasschool.net rather than telephoning. **Absences due to adverse weather will always be authorised on the school's registers.**

2.2 Collecting pupils early

If the School is open and you decide to collect your child(ren) before the normal pick-up time, please use the School's usual collection procedures and report to the main office so that your child(ren) can be signed out.

2.3 School Minibuses

On days when the School is open, the School will endeavour to run its usual service. Parents should check the school's website and social media for any disruption to their bus service, before dropping their child off at their designated collection point.

2.4 Closures during the day

There are occasions when weather conditions can deteriorate during the day. If the School closes in the course of the day, all parents will be contacted by email and messages will also appear on the School's website and social media accounts. Staff will look after all pupils until parents or guardians are able to arrange collection, or arrangements are made for them to go home.

2.5 Clothing

Any pupil attending school during adverse weather conditions, should wear and bring appropriate clothing. The School would recommend that in extreme cold weather conditions, pupils wear multiple layers, accompanied by warm coats, gloves and appropriate footwear.

3. THE SCHOOL DAY

On days where the School remains open but attendance is disrupted by adverse weather, it is likely that there will be a reduced number of pupils in some classes. In these circumstances, we will endeavour to use blended learning (an approach that combines online and face to face educational opportunities) to deliver pupils' timetabled lessons as normal; this is subject to the number of staff members on-site.

Whilst technology has changed and the School has the ability to teach online, the School cannot guarantee that it will be able to facilitate remote learning for a short period, brought about by poor weather.

4. IN HOUSE PROCEDURES FOR ADVERSE SNOW CONDITIONS

If the School is open the following procedures should be followed:

- Pathways should be cleared of snow to connect all buildings and to allow for safe walking.
- Steps to all school buildings should be cleared of snow and salted.
- Driveways will be cleared of snow where possible and salted.
- All pupils and staff, should assemble in Mountbatten Hall on arrival to allow numbers of pupils and staff to be determined.

5. EXAMINATIONS CONTINGENCY PLAN

If the School is unable to open as normal for examinations, the Examinations Officer or Headmaster will inform each awarding organisation, with which examinations are due to be taken, as soon as is possible.

The responsibility for deciding whether it is safe for a centre to open lies with the Headmaster, who is the Head of Centre. The Headmaster is responsible for taking advice, or following instructions from relevant local or national agencies, when deciding whether the School is able to open.

Possible actions:

- The School will open for examinations and examination candidates only.
- The School will consider the use of alternative venues in agreement with relevant awarding organisations (e.g. share facilities with other centres or use another public building, if possible)
- The School may apply to awarding organisations for special consideration for candidates where they have met the minimum requirements.