



Snow and Bad Weather Policy

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

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:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close

The closure will be recorded by:

- The media (BBC Radio Leeds & Radio Aire) will then broadcast details.
- The schools texting service.
- The school's website: www.stnicholasprimaryleeds.org.uk

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However, parents are expected to check the website and/or make themselves aware of the radio broadcasts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

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 or not 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 risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence.

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

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by text or phone either at home or work and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and gritted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous.

Before and after school opening hours' parents are responsible for ensuring their children do not slide on the school grounds.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School Hall will be open from 8.45am for parents to bring their children inside. All parents should enter the school with their child directly by the front entrance, and report to the office before taking themselves and their child into the hall. Parents may be required to supervise their children in the hall until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the children. Parents are asked to leave the school immediately as soon as the staff have taken over.

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds at break times.

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