

Dinnington First School 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 Headteacher. 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:

1. The closure will be recorded on the Newcastle City Council Website by the Headteacher. This information will be displayed on the school closures page at www.newcastle.gov.uk
2. Parents will be alerted to the closure by text via Parent Mail which will be activated once the closure has been logged with the City Council.

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 us know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are unable to get their child to school, 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 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 via Parent Mail and asked to collect their child/ren. This decision will only be made in very extreme circumstances. It is essential that we have up to date contact details for all parents/carers in case we need to do this.

School Site

Every effort will be made to ensure that the school site is safe. In the event of snow/ice some pathways will be salted and or cleared but it is not possible to do this across the whole of the site. Parents, children and visitors should be aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Children will also be reminded of this in assembly.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring that their children do not slide on the school playground or throw snow at each other.

In icy conditions the facilities supervisor will salt wide pathways as follows:

- a) from the front gate to the front door
- b) from the front gate to the school yard
- c) from the entrance to the yard across to the early years entrance.

In the event of extreme winter weather the school will contact Newcastle City Council to keep the approach to the school clear and employ an outside agency to help keep the paths and car parking areas clear.

If conditions are too severe and we are unable to clear a pathway to the yard, children will be asked to enter school through the main public entrance. Parents are requested to drop children off here and they will be supervised by staff from this point. If the pathway to the yard is blocked at the end of the school day children should be collected from the main entrance.

Parking

Whilst Newcastle City Council make every effort to keep the approach to the school clear of ice and snow they are not always able to do so. The estate in which the school is situated may be difficult to access and parking in the streets around the school could make access to the school even more difficult. We would therefore advise that you park in the village and make the remainder of the journey on foot.