

Emergency Bad Weather Procedure

Information about unplanned school closures.

In unusual circumstances, where school has made all reasonable efforts to remain open, school may have to be closed.

We recognise the difficulties this causes for parents, carers and students and seek to avoid such action.

Why is the decision made?

Usually the decision to close the school is made because of bad weather, for instance black ice on minor un-gritted roads or snow making driving dangerous.

As you know, at Round Oak, most of our students live some distance away and rely on school transport to get into school. That means they are unable to walk through bad weather to get into school if transport is unable to operate. It also means that school transport might be unable to collect/ deliver students on minor roads which remain un-gritted. Flooding can be a problem on access roads near school.

Bad weather and other circumstances (like boiler or server failure or emergencies requiring evacuation) can be a deciding factor at any time of day. We will try to avoid closing the school after the day has started and students are on site. This is because of:

- our reliance on school transport (which operates most effectively at the beginning and end of the day at the planned times)
- the difficulty for parents/carers to meet students in the middle of the day at short notice

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This means that we will make an informed decision to close the school at the beginning of any day rather than after students are on site, based on all the information we can reasonably have.

How is the decision made?

For instance- in the case of bad weather:

Following local weather warnings the Head will assess the risk to safe travel and also the safety of students as they transition from transport and into school.

The head will consult with the Site Manager about the conditions at the school site and the impact of the weather on the access roads.

How will I know school is closed?

Following a decision to close the school early in the morning, the head will action the following alerts:

1. A free text message will be sent to staff and parents/carers via School Comms service....it is important that the school has **up to date mobile numbers**, without which you will not receive the text.
2. The head will also inform the school closure line. All parents/carers who have **subscribed to warwickshire.gov.uk/schoolclosures** will receive a free text message from our school and also alerts from Twitter feed @wccschoolclosed
3. The head will inform local Free Radio of the closure.
4. Please assume that school will be open the following day.



Brittain Lane
Warwick
CV34 6DX

Kate Stevens.
Head Teacher

School Office 01926 423311
Fax: 01926 887371
e-mail:admin7030@welearn365.com

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What if transport arrives to collect my child?

We make reasonable efforts to inform transport in advance so that they will not arrive to collect your child. Please confirm your understanding of school closure with them.

What if my child attends National Grid/ another site for their education?

Those attending National Grid/ other sites should make their own decision whether to attend based on the travel conditions. Other sites may well be open and expecting your child to attend. If you are unsure, please contact the site directly to discuss.

I have more questions about school closures- who should I contact?

If you want to talk about any issue or concern please contact your child's form tutor. We welcome your feedback.

