

Bickley Park School

Snow and Severe Weather Policy

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or severe weather (SASW), such as storm force winds, the prime concern of the school will always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of childcare.

The school aims to remain open in the event of SASW. We feel this is important for those parents who are relying on us to care for their children in term time. In the event of SASW, we cannot guarantee a normal school day.

However, there are certain factors which may lead to the school closing, such as whether:

- there are enough members of staff to be able to provide satisfactory care;
- the severity of the weather conditions is on such a major scale that it is unlikely that many people will be able, physically, to make it into school;
- the school can provide lunch for the children;
- the school grounds are sufficiently safe for children, parents and staff;
- the school has sufficient heating;
- the school has lighting and hot water across the site;
- external agencies, e.g. police, local government, motoring organisations, etc, are advising against school travel in our region.

If the school is to be open, in the event of SASW, we will declare this a 'Severe Weather Day' and will post this on the website as soon as possible and normally by 7.00am on the day as well as notifying parents and staff of this by School Post.

If, for the reasons outlined above, the safest or most expedient judgment is to close the school a 'Closure Day' will be declared and we will post this on the website as soon as possible and normally by 7.00am on the day as well as notifying parents and staff of this by School Post.

When checking the website regularly on a P.C., remember to Ctrl + F5 to refresh for updates.

When the school is open, we will remain open until the end of the normal school day:

- 3.00pm. for Nursery and Reception
- 3.10pm for Y1
- 3.20pm for Y2
- 3.30pm for Y3
- From 3.40pm for Y4-8

The following **frequently asked questions** should answer any queries you may have.

Will parents be contacted in the event of snow or severe weather?

Our website www.bickleyparkschool.co.uk should be consulted regularly. (Remember to Ctrl + F5 to refresh for updates if using a P.C.) We will also endeavour to School Post everyone to ensure a clear message is sent. This document (Snow and severe weather policy) can be found on the school website and gives clear instructions for SASW days.

Do I need to contact the School?

There is no need to contact the school regarding your decision to travel or not; this will help avoid blocked phone lines. A standardised answer phone message will be posted giving advice about arrangements for the day, although the first port of call for information will be the website.

To travel to school or not?

Parents have to decide whether it is safe and desirable for them to make the journey into school. If the school is open, and once we have established which pupils we have on site, we will construct a schedule for the day which will include, where possible, relevant academic work - especially for those who may be preparing for exams – and a range of activities aimed at making the day as productive as possible.

Does it matter what time we arrive at school?

No. We will expect children to arrive throughout the morning. However, it is important that children sign in and register in the Prep or Pre-Prep Department offices unless there is a duty member of staff in place before 8.25am.

What will happen if heavy snow or severe weather arrives during the school day?

We may declare a ‘Severe Weather Day’ resulting in the school closing earlier than usual. This will be communicated to parents via the website and School Post. If they wish to collect their child(ren) from school before this time, they are welcome to do so, but please ensure pupils are signed out.

Anyone struggling to collect their child, due to poor road conditions, transport arrangements, etc, should contact the school to inform us of the likely collection time.

Where do I go to collect my child?

Children should be collected via the school office.

Will there be after school activities?

There will be no after school activities or clubs. However, should you be delayed in collecting your child, please ring the school office to keep us informed. As always, we will look after the children until you are able to get here, but please remember that members of staff will be also be anxious to get home if the weather and road conditions are poor.

This policy also applies to the EYFS Department

Author	Bursar	
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