

East Prescott Road Nursery School



Snow and Ice Policy

Approved: February 2024

Review: February 2027

POLICY STATEMENT

The School will undertake to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation with regard to the management of snow and icy conditions for all pupils and employees and to ensure best practice by extending the arrangements as far as is reasonably practicable to others who may also be affected by our activities.

MANAGEMENT

The Headteacher is responsible for taking appropriate measures, including the decision as to whether to close the school, in the event of snow and icy conditions.

OPENING/CLOSING THE SCHOOL

In the event of snow and/or icy conditions a decision will need to be taken as to whether to open or close the school:

- Snow during the day.

If there is heavy snow during the day, consideration should be given to allowing parents the option of collecting pupils early before conditions worsen.

- Snow Overnight.

Heavy snow overnight will require early morning decision taking, for which the Headteacher and staff should be prepared. Therefore during winter months, a close watch must be kept on weather forecasts broadcast by the media or on line at the Met Office at <http://metoffice.gov.uk> or the BBC at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/weather>.

In the event of overnight snowfall then as far as possible the school will endeavour to make a decision by 7.30 am as to whether to close the school. This will enable parents to be informed as soon as possible and avoid an unnecessary, and potentially dangerous trip to school. It may also be appropriate to delay the opening time for the school today in order to allow staff, parents and children a longer period of time in which to make the journey to school.

The Headteacher will initiate the following actions contacting and delegating tasks to staff as required:

1. Establish actual conditions in the school area
2. Try and establish how many staff consider that they will be able to travel to school to determine level of supervision available if the school is opened.
3. By 7.30 am endeavour to take the decision to close or open the school or to delay opening times.
4. If closing the school, LCC and school procedures should be followed to avoid confusion.
5. Inform the chair of governors or in his/her absence, the vice-chair or other governor.
6. Communicate the decision to parents via the school's text messaging service and Instagram as soon as possible.

- Marginal Conditions.

If opening the school in marginal conditions consider; Informing parents/staff by 7.30 am, using the school text messaging app, that despite the weather conditions the school will open and that children should attend if the

parents consider it is safe for them to travel to school.

SCHOOL CLOSURE PROCEDURE

If the school is closed or partially closed due to weather conditions or emergency this is the procedure to follow;

1. By 7.00 am the Headteacher will phone the SLT to discuss the weather conditions. Whenever possible, a decision made by 7.30 am.
2. Message to staff by the Headteacher. If you do not get a message the school is open.
3. If you cannot get in to school please follow the normal procedure to report your absence.

ADVANCE MEASURES

In the event that the headteacher has made the decision to close the school the following staff will be directly involved with advance measures;

- Headteacher: Will notify all staff
- School Business Manager: Text message to all parents

STAFF TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL

It is an individual staff decision as to whether it is safe to travel in to school. Staff who cannot travel must notify the school as early as possible. Through the normal reporting procedure.

If there is only a skeleton staff available at school, staff who arrive will supervise the children. All staff are aware of the procedure. We will evaluate the effectiveness as we do each school closure.

COPING WITH SNOW AND ICY CONDITIONS IN SCHOOL

The school will maintain a stock of at least 4 bags of salt grit and snow shovels which are kept in the caretaker's cupboard.

In icy conditions, the Headteacher will ensure that;

1. A decision is taken as to whether outside play is safe and amend daily routine accordingly.
2. Parents are advised to ensure children wear suitable footwear.
3. Children are advised of potential dangers and given guidance as to appropriate behaviour. This will include being aware of water on floors.
4. When normal classroom entrances and exits are unavailable or unsafe due to snow/ice, pupils should enter through the main gate.

SNOW CLEARANCE

The Headteacher is responsible for arranging snow clearance at the beginning of each day. The caretaker is responsible for maintaining the salt supply and clearing snow on contracted work days.

Clearance should concentrate on providing a clear, gritted walkway to the pedestrian gate.

Fire doors should be checked that they are able to be opened.

Cones should be used to warn of dangerous areas and as temporary barriers.

PARENT INFORMATION ON SCHOOL CLOSURE

Prior to any warnings of snow and ice conditions the School Business Manager will send a text to all parents advising them of the school closure by 8:00am.