



**Newall Green
Primary School**

Aiming High To Reach Our Goals

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Adverse Weather Policy 2026

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Related Policies/Guidance	
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Adverse Weather Policy (Snow Plan)

1. Introduction

1.1 Severe weather, particularly snow, can significantly disrupt transport and communication. Under such circumstances, it may be difficult for some staff who live further away to travel safely to school. However, as the majority of pupils live locally, many are still able to attend. This may result in a situation where there are high pupil numbers but reduced staffing levels.

This plan outlines how the school will operate in adverse weather conditions to ensure that all pupils on site are safe and appropriately supervised.

1.2 The school will remain open whenever possible, provided that the safety of pupils and staff can be maintained. However, there may be occasions when it is necessary to close the school, either fully or partially, due to health and safety concerns.

Clear communication with parents, carers and staff is essential, and this policy sets out the procedures to be followed in such circumstances.

2. Policy

2.1 The school will open on all normal school days, even where poor weather conditions exist, wherever it is safe to do so. However, in the event of severe weather, it may not be possible for sufficient staff to attend, and a decision may be made to close the school or restrict its opening.

2.2 If the school is closed, a member of staff will remain on site where possible for a short period to support initial communication. Thereafter, the school site will be closed and secured. No pupils should be on site, and staff will remain only where necessary to ensure the safety and security of the premises.

Where pupils are on site, staff will remain until all children have been safely collected.

2.3 In the event of an enforced closure, the school will be unable to provide supervision for pupils who have not already arrived on site. However, any children who have already arrived at school prior to the decision being made will be supervised until they are safely collected.

3. Decision-Making and Communication

3.1 Where possible, the decision to open, close, or restrict opening will be made by **8:15 a.m.** This decision will be based on:

- the ability of staff to travel safely to school

- the safety and condition of the school site
- the likely progression of weather conditions throughout the day

3.2 In adverse weather conditions, staff are expected to inform the Headteacher by **7:45 a.m.** if they are unable to travel safely to work.

3.3 If the school is required to close or restrict opening, this information will be communicated via:

- WhatsApp and direct messages to staff
- the school website (**primary source of up-to-date information**)
- Arbor messaging service
- local radio stations

Parents and carers are advised to check communications before travelling, particularly before 8:15 a.m. Please note that the school telephone line may be extremely busy during these times; where possible, use the communication channels above rather than calling the school.

3.4 Once a decision to close the school at the start of the day has been made, it is unlikely to be reversed, even if weather conditions improve. Decisions are made based on the best available information at the time and with sufficient notice to support parents and carers in making alternative arrangements.

4. Restricted Opening

4.1 Restricted opening may occur where the school remains open but staffing levels are reduced or where weather conditions limit pupil attendance.

4.2 On such days:

- pupils should be collected at the normal time unless alternative arrangements are made
- after-school clubs and staff meetings will not take place
- parents/carers may collect their children earlier if they wish
- access to outdoor areas, including the playground, may be restricted

5. Guidance for Parents and Carers

5.1 If the school is required to close during the school day due to worsening conditions, parents and carers will be contacted via email, phone or messaging systems and asked to collect their child.

5.2 Parents of children who usually walk to school unaccompanied should check that the school is open before children leave home. In severe weather, it is strongly advised that children are collected rather than walking home alone.

5.3 If adverse conditions continue over several days, parents and carers should regularly check the school website, Arbor, and Class Dojo for updates. All key updates will be reflected on the school website.

5.4 Parents are reminded to ensure that children attend school in appropriate warm clothing and suitable footwear during periods of severe weather.

5.5 Snowballing is not permitted on the school site. This is to ensure the safety of all pupils, staff and visitors, particularly where grit or sand has been used on surfaces.

6. Frequently Asked Questions

Do I need to contact the school if my child is absent?

Yes. If you decide that it is unsafe to travel, please inform the school by email so that we can confirm your child is safe.

Should I travel to school?

Parents/carers and staff must make their own judgement about whether it is safe to travel. Please check school communications before setting off. The school will make every effort to ensure staff are on site to receive pupils; however, children should not be left unattended on the school premises.

Will after-school clubs run?

No. After-school clubs will not operate during adverse weather conditions.

When should I collect my child?

Children should be collected at the normal time unless you choose to collect them earlier due to weather conditions.

7. Educational Provision

During restricted opening, pupils may not be taught by their usual teacher or in their usual class. However, the school will provide a structured day, including appropriate English and mathematics activities.

In the event of prolonged closure, remote learning will be provided or MS Teams where possible.

8. Emergency Support Arrangements

- A member of staff will remain on site until all pupils have been collected.
- The school kitchen maintains a small stock of food to provide basic refreshments if required.

9. Site Safety Measures

- Fire exits and access routes will be prioritised for clearing and salting.
- The site manager/caretaker will ensure adequate supplies of salt or grit.
- Salting of key pathways will take place from **7:00 a.m.** and throughout the day as required.

10. Free School Meals

Where the school is closed due to adverse weather, families eligible for Free School Meals will receive a voucher via email or text message.