

# PINNER WOOD SCHOOL



## ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

**Approval Authority:**

**Effective From:** January 2026

**Date Ratified by GB:**

**Next Review Date:** January 2027

**Signed by Chair of GB:**

# 1. Purpose

Pinner Wood School aims to remain open whenever it is safe to do so. This policy explains how decisions are made during adverse weather, how families will be informed, and what to expect regarding attendance, learning, and site safety.

## 2. Decision to Close

The decision to close the school, either before or during the school day, will be made by the Headteacher. The school will only close if:

- There are not enough staff on site to operate safely
- Conditions on site are dangerous
- Travel conditions are, or are expected to become, too hazardous

In the Headteacher's absence, the most senior leader on site will make decisions related to this policy.

Where possible, decisions about closure will be made by **7:00am**.

## 3. Communication of Closure

If the school must close, information will be shared on:

- The Pinner Wood School website
- The school's Instagram account (@PinnerWoodSch)
- Email to families via Arbor
- Seesaw alerts

The school will make every effort to keep families informed, but families are expected to check the website when adverse weather makes closure possible.

## 4. Partial Opening or Adjusted Timings

In some circumstances, the school may:

- Open later than usual
- Close earlier than usual
- Limit access to certain areas of the site

Any changes will be communicated as early as possible.

## 5. Attendance and Absence

We understand that children may arrive later than usual during bad weather.

If a family is unable to reach school due to exceptional circumstances, they must inform the school so the absence can be authorised.

Families should not assume the school is closed without confirmation. Failure to notify the school may result in an unauthorised absence.

When the school is officially closed, all absence is authorised.

## 6. Closure During the School Day

If the school must close early due to worsening conditions:

- Students will remain supervised until families can be contacted
- Families will be notified by email (and text if available)
- Early closure will only occur in extreme circumstances
- Staff will be released as soon as supervision allows, with priority given to those with childcare needs or long journeys

## 7. Wraparound Care and Clubs

If the school is closed:

- Breakfast Club will not operate
- After-school clubs and activities will be cancelled
- Families will be informed as soon as possible

If the school remains open but weather is deteriorating, after-school clubs may be cancelled for safety reasons.

## 8. Transport (if applicable)

If local authority transport (e.g., SEND taxis) is cancelled, the school may remain open. Families should make their own decision about safe travel and inform the school if their child cannot attend.

## 9. Site Safety

During snow or ice:

- Key pathways will be cleared and salted, though they may remain slippery
- Essential pathways will be maintained throughout the day
- Students will be reminded to take care
- Outdoor areas, including playgrounds, may be closed if unsafe

If the school is closed to students, the site team and senior staff will monitor conditions to reopen as soon as it is safe.

When the school is open in severe weather, the school will open from **8:30am** for children to come inside.

## 10. Learning during Snow Days

If the school is closed:

- **Day 1** will be a “fun snow day” with no formal learning set
- If closure continues beyond the first day, online learning will be provided via Seesaw

## 11. Safeguarding

During remote learning, safeguarding procedures remain in place. Any concerns should be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead or a Deputy DSL.

## 12. Staff Expectations

Our priority is the safety and education of students. However, we recognise that staff may also face childcare and travel challenges during adverse weather.

When the school is open:

- Staff are expected to make every reasonable effort to attend, even if delayed
- Staff must keep the school informed of any difficulties
- If staff cannot travel safely, they may be asked to support remote learning or other duties where appropriate

# Parent-Friendly Summary: What You Need to Know During Adverse Weather

At Pinner Wood, we always aim to stay open. We know how disruptive closures can be for families, and we only close when it is genuinely unsafe for children or staff.

Below is a simple guide to help you understand what to expect, how we communicate, and what you can do to help things run smoothly.

## How We Decide Whether to Open

We look carefully at:

- Whether enough staff can travel safely to run the school
- Whether the site (paths, playgrounds, entrances) is safe
- Whether local travel conditions are dangerous or expected to worsen

We try to make decisions by **7:00am**, but sometimes conditions change quickly and we may need to update families later.

## How You Will Hear From Us

If the school is closed or opening late, we will update you through:

- **School website** (first place to check)
- **Instagram** (@PinnerWoodSch)
- **Email via Arbor**
- **Seesaw alerts**
- We recommend checking the website early if snow or ice is forecast.

## Getting to School Safely

We understand that journeys may take longer in bad weather. Children arriving late due to difficult conditions will not be penalised.

If you cannot reach school safely:

- Please **call or email us** as soon as possible
- We will authorise the absence if conditions are genuinely unsafe

Please do not assume the school is closed unless we have confirmed it.

## If We Need to Close During the Day

If conditions worsen unexpectedly:

- We will contact families immediately
- Children will stay supervised indoors until collected
- No child will be left unsupervised

- After-school clubs may be cancelled for safety reasons

We ask families to collect children promptly if an early closure is announced.

## Wraparound Care and Clubs

If the school is closed:

- **Breakfast Club will not run**
- **After-school clubs and activities will be cancelled**

If the school is open but weather is deteriorating, we may cancel clubs to ensure everyone can travel home safely.

## What Happens on the School Site

During snow or ice:

- Key paths will be cleared and salted, but may still be slippery
- Children will be reminded to walk carefully
- Playgrounds may be closed at drop-off, pick-up, or break times
- In very cold weather, children may come inside from **8:30am**

We will reopen outdoor areas as soon as they are safe.

## Learning at Home During Snow Days

If the school is closed:

### Day 1 – Fun Snow Day

We encourage families to enjoy the weather together, as we know it is a rare occurrence. No formal learning is set.

### From Day 2 onwards

- Online Learning will be provided
- Staff will be available online where possible to answer any messages
- If you have no internet access, please let us know so we can help

We aim to keep learning manageable and flexible for families.

## Transport (if applicable)

If local authority transport (e.g., SEND taxis) is cancelled:

- The school may still be open
- Families should decide whether travel is safe
- Absence will be authorised if transport is unavailable and no safe alternative exists

## How You Can Help

- Check the website early if snow is forecast
- Dress children warmly with appropriate footwear
- Allow extra time for your journey
- Keep contact details up to date so you receive alerts
- Let us know promptly if you cannot travel safely
- Share any school messages via what's app group to ensure communication is quick.

## **Our Commitment to You**

We will:

- Prioritise safety
- Communicate clearly and promptly
- Reopen as soon as it is safe
- Support learning if closure continues
- Be understanding about travel difficulties

We appreciate your cooperation and patience during challenging weather.