

Silsden Primary School

Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

It is the policy of the school to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Co-Head Teachers.

The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

On the morning following a snowfall the situation needs to be assessed with an aim for a decision on opening/ delay opening or closing to be made by 7:45am

1. Co-Headteachers to liaise with one another, SBM and site manager to assess the situation via mobile phone contact.
2. All reasonable efforts should be made by all Staff to reach school - including other modes of transport.
3. Staff should text/phone their site headteacher as soon as they are aware that they may be delayed / unable to travel to school and aim to do this by 7:30am.

If the school is to close / delay opening :

1. The closure / revised opening time will be recorded on the Bradford Metropolitan District Council Website by the Head Teacher. This information will be displayed to the public via the schools directory on the BSO website; bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/Home.aspx#schoolclosures

The media will then broadcast details.

2. Parents (and staff) who have opted into the scheme will be alerted to the closure using the Teachers2Parents Text service activated by the Admin Team/ Headteacher (from home if necessary) once the closure has been logged with on the Bradford website. Circumstances permitting, this text will be sent by 7.45am.

3. The home page of Silsden Primary School website (www.silsdenprimary.co.uk) will be updated regularly to communicate the decisions that have been made.

4. School will also inform childcare providers – Handprints and Dradishaw Nurseries – that school is closed/ delayed opening

****Parents should await a text message/ check the website rather than phoning the school for information****

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed.

Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risk their child being registered as an un-authorised absence. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by text and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous.

Children should come to school with appropriate footwear – eg wellies – to enable playtime in the snow if considered appropriate – with alternative shoes to wear inside. Children coming to school wearing light/ canvas shoes will not be able to play out.

Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their children in the playgrounds do not slide/ throw snowballs/ play on the trim trails.

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

In the Head Teacher's absence a member of the Senior Leadership Team on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.