



BRICKNELL PRIMARY SCHOOL SNOW PLAN

The school plans for snow disruption each winter.

OBJECTIVES

Our key objective during the worst weather conditions is to open school on a site that is safe and adequately staffed. When we experience ice or snow our first priority is to assess whether we can make the site safe enough for adults and children.

Although we keep up-to-date with forecasts and weather warnings, some snow and ice conditions can be localised. What appears to be 'slushy' snow at school can be compacted very quickly on frozen ground when people are walking on it, or there may be severe snow around school but little where you live. We ensure that:

1. The site is safe to access.
2. There is a sufficient number of trained staff to safely supervise the children.
3. Meals can be offered. This may include a cold alternative.
4. A member of the leadership team is on site.

The school will aim to stay open to ensure continuity of education and to ensure that families who do not have suitable childcare arrangements in place are not disadvantaged or financially penalised by a decision to close.

DECISION TO CLOSE THE SCHOOL

The decision to close the school can only be taken by the head-teacher. Notification of closure will be through local radio (Radio Humberside and KCFM). Arrangements may be very specific and change from day to day. The senior member of staff on site will organise the staffing allocations irrespective of normal responsibilities. The first priority will be the safe supervision of the children. There may be some disruption to the continuity of education in adverse weather, with changes to timetables or staffing.

ALTERNATIVES TO CLOSING the school include:

1. Late start
2. Early finish
3. Access for a restricted group of pupils.

MANAGING THE SITE

When the site is snowy or icy, a designated access route will be identified and kept clear and gritted by the premises staff. Premises staff will monitor weather conditions and respond by attending early if required. The main access routes into school will be cleared and gritted by premises staff. Conditions will be monitored through the day and premises staff will clear and grit all school pathways and remove compacted snow where practicable in priority order (see attached priority plan). Thick snow may not be cleared as this can be safer than a cleared route that has frozen. Compacted snow will be cleared by shovel and ice will be gritted.

Outdoor playtimes will only take place if the senior member of staff on site, in consultation with the head-teacher, deems it safe to do so. Playtimes on the field will be utilised if safe to do so. In icy conditions, children and staff will not be allowed on to the playground for outdoor play. Pupils will be asked to wear suitable clothes and footwear.

When there is a possibility that school may not be able to open an assessment will clarify whether:

- the site can be made safe;
- there is sufficient staff to meet appropriate adult : child ratios;
- a meal can be provided at lunchtime.

School will only open when the above criteria are met.

COMMUNICATION TO PARENTS

The school's snow procedure will be displayed inside the school for staff and in the external notice boards for parents.

1. Local radio stations (Radio Humberside / KCFM) will provide a list of schools that are closed or partially closed. They will do this very quickly; this is the best way to check if the school is open or closed.
2. Notification will be made in the case of a staggered opening with pupils being allowed to arrive at any-time up to 10.00am. This allows those from further afield to travel to school safely and spreads the flow of traffic in and around the school site.

4. The head-teacher will always try to make a decision as early as possible and would hope to inform you by 7:30am, at the very latest, if the school will be closed.
5. A Teachers2Parents text will be sent to keep parents updated.

CLOSING A SCHOOL IS NEVER A DECISION THAT IS TAKEN LIGHTLY: WE WILL DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO REMAIN OPEN.

COMMUNICATION TO STAFF

Premises staff will make an initial assessment of the school site when they first arrive in the morning. If there are any concerns about whether the school should be opened to pupils, they should contact the head-teacher immediately.

Staff will be kept informed by text message, telephone or e-mail. It is each member of staff's responsibility to provide school with changes of contact details.

The easiest communication is via text messages. Senior Management will be contacted immediately when a decision is made to close by the head-teacher. The head-teacher, assistant head-teachers and school facilities manager will contact admin staff, teachers, teaching assistants and lunchtime supervisors.

