



Severe Weather Policy for New Bewerley Community School

Leadership team, office and site staff members monitor weather conditions to know when this policy should be implemented.

When the local area experiences severe snow conditions or icy conditions New Bewerley Community School will aim to remain open as long as:

1. The site is safe to access.
2. There are enough staff members 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 that do not have suitable childcare arrangements in place are not disadvantaged or financially penalised by a decision to close.

The decision to close the school can only be taken by the Headteacher. Notification of closure will be through our parent text service, school website and Leeds City Council's website. It is vital that parents read the message themselves rather than rely on a verbal version from others. 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 priorities will be (in order of importance):

1. Safe supervision of the children.
2. Continuity of education for Year 6 and Year 2.
3. Continuity of education for other year groups.

It may not be possible to meet all these priorities. Alternative activities matched to the age of the children and the skills of the staff member will be offered if priority 3 is not possible.

Alternatives to closing the school include:

- Late start
- Early Finish
- Access for a restricted group of pupils.

Managing the site:

When the leadership team issues a bad weather notice, the playgrounds will be shut and the main entrance into school will be used by everyone. The site manager will keep clear and grit designated access routes. These routes will be routinely publicised to parents. 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 still take place as long as the senior member of staff on site, in consultation with a member of Senior Leadership and/or site manager, deems it safe to do so. Pupils will be asked to wear suitable clothes and footwear that complement their school uniform. They should also bring some changes of clothing, including socks.