



Policy for Adverse Weather Conditions

Our priority is to keep the school open whenever possible. However, in severe weather, safety is paramount. The decision to close the school is made by the Headteacher (or a designated member of the Leadership Team) after considering site safety, staff availability, and travel conditions.

When Will the School Close?

The school will only close if:

- **Insufficient staff** can travel safely to maintain safe supervision (including DBS-checked and first-aid trained staff).
- **Site conditions are unsafe**, e.g., hazardous pathways, car parks, or heating failures.
- **Travel conditions are dangerous or expected to worsen**, affecting pupils, parents, and staff.

How Will We Communicate a Closure?

If the school closes before or during the day:

- Parents will be informed via:
 - **ParentPay** (text/email)
 - **Class Dojo**
 - **School Website:** www.firfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
- Please ensure your contact details are up to date.

The school will make every effort to keep parents fully informed during periods of adverse weather, as we understand the challenges and uncertainty this can cause. Updates will be shared as promptly as possible through the communication channels listed above. We kindly ask parents to regularly check for messages and visit the school website when severe weather is expected, or a closure is possible. This helps us keep phone lines free for urgent outgoing calls and ensures that information reaches everyone quickly.

Attendance During Adverse Weather

- Late arrivals due to weather will be authorised.
- If you cannot travel safely, **please call the school** to explain. Failure to notify us may result in an unauthorised absence.
- Do not assume the school is closed without confirmation.

Snow Plan

- **Access:** Use the main entrance on Firfield Avenue only. Sawley Road may be closed.
- **Safety:** Paths will be gritted, but please take care. Staff, parents, and pupils share responsibility for safe movement.
- **Drop-off/Pick-up:**
 - Drop children promptly; do not linger on site.
 - Do not enter school buildings unless necessary.
- **After-School Clubs:** All staff-run clubs will be cancelled. WRAP Club may run—please check with the office or WRAP mobile (07879 291217).

During the Day

- If conditions worsen, early release may occur in extreme cases. Parents will be notified via ParentPay, Class Dojo, and phone calls if needed.
- Staff living far away may leave early at the Headteacher's discretion, ensuring pupil supervision until 3:30pm.

Responsibility for decisions: Headteacher or, in their absence, a member of the Leadership Team.

Learning During Closure

On the first day of any closure the school will not be able to provide work remotely for a number of reasons and we guide parents towards generic learning e.g. Reading, Times Table Rockstars (links on the school website).

For extended school closures longer than 24 hours we will endeavour to provide remote learning through Class Dojo.

DATE: January 2026 REVIEW: January 2028