

Porchester Junior School



Severe Weather Policy

Head Teacher Signature:	<i>V. Moore</i>
Date Adopted:	September 2023
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Severe Weather Procedures for Porchester Junior School

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

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

If the decision to close the school is made, the following procedure will be followed:

- The closure will be recorded on the school website.
- Parents/Carers who have provided up to date mobile phone numbers and/or email addresses will be alerted to the school closure using the Text message service activated by the Head Teacher once the closure has been decided.
- Capital FM and BBC Radio Nottingham will be informed and parents/carers can listen for up-to-date school closures.
- Updates and information will be provided to parents/carers through Parent Text Service and Class Dojo.
- The school will make all practical efforts to keep parents/carers informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents/cares. However, it is advised that parents/carers regularly check the school website and Class Dojo when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.
- The school appreciates that during bad weather, children may arrive later than normal. Parents/carers should endeavour to contact the school as soon as possible to let them know that their child is on their way if they are likely to be delayed.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar circumstances:

- Parents/carers will be contacted by text, email or a telephone call to advise them of the early closure. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.
- Children are expected to continue their studies at home and advice will be provided on the school website.

Site safety:

- In the event of snow and ice, an emergency route will be in operation. **Access into school will be the main entrance as this will be cleared and salted. Parents/carers, children, visitors, and staff will be aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain hazardous, Students will also be remained of this in assembly.**
- In icy conditions, the site team will make every effort to salt pathways from the main gates to the nearest entrance into the building.

- Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.
- On school days where the school is closed to students, the site team and Senior Staff will monitor conditions in order to re-open the school as soon as it is safe to do so.
- During significant adverse weather conditions, the school dining room and certain corridors will be open from 8.40am for the children to wait inside.
- During adverse weather conditions, the playgrounds may be out of bounds at the beginning and end of the school day and, if necessary, also during break times.
- In the Head Teachers absence, the most Senior Leader on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Severe Weather Procedures.

Impact on staff:

Our first priority is for the children of Porchester Junior School. However, it is understood that members of staff will also need to take responsibility for their own children as well as their own transport arrangements in adverse weather conditions.

- When the school is open, it is expected that all staff will do their best to get to work even if this means that they will be late. Keeping the school informed of any problems that staff encounter is a priority.
- If students are dismissed during the school day, we will need to ensure supervision for those who remain in school. Staff will be informed by Senior Staff that they can leave as soon as is reasonably possible.
- Priority will be given to those staff who have been advised by their child's school that their child must be collected due to their school's closure or those who live the furthest distance away from Porchester Junior school.

If the school is to close, the Head Teacher will contact staff. Staff will use any closure time spent at home providing remote learning for the children, preparation and planning time.