

Whickham School and Sports College



Snow and Bad Weather Policy

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In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow the prime concern of the school is always the safety of the pupils and staff.

The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always endeavor to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so. If a teacher is unable to get to school we may need to reallocate that class, or operate a revised timetable.

If the school is open in snow or bad weather, pupils are expected to attend as normal, as long as it is safe for them to travel.

In the event of bad weather, parents should check whether the school is open before travelling to the site. The Site Manager will inspect the site and we will aim to let parents know of any decision to close the school between 7.30 – 8.00am.

There are a number of ways to confirm whether the school is open or closed.

- SchoolComms Texting Service, Twitter, email – we will try and make a decision as early as possible, and will intend to reopen as soon as we can. Please ensure all of your contact details are up to date to enable us to communicate with you in this way.
- Check school website www.whickhamschool.org
- Listen for lists of school closures on local radio
<http://www.metroradio.co.uk/page/school-closures/>
- Check the list of school closures on the Gateshead Council Website
http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Education%20and%20Learning/Schools/School_Closures.aspx

If the school does open, but extreme weather develops during the day, we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day at 3.05 pm. However this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous. In which case parents will be contacted via SchoolComms, email and twitter.

Normal lessons may be curtailed and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff to await collection.

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. While staff would be expected to arrive into school in time for the normal daily school routines to occur, it is appreciated that those with a longer journey may take more time than normal to travel into school. It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.