



Cardinal Newman Catholic High School

Bad Weather Protocol

Rationale:

At Cardinal Newman Catholic School we want to ensure that in the event of heavy snowfall or extreme weather conditions adequate measures are in place to enable our school to remain open. It is always the school's priority to remain open in order to minimise disruption to learning, whilst also ensuring that our site staff maintain our high standards of safety.

Aims

This plan aims to:-

- Keep pupils and staff aware of our priorities in extreme weather conditions
- Keep parents/carers updated on our methods of communication
- Prevent pupils and staff from being stranded at school
- Reduce unnecessary risks in pupils and staff travelling to and from school
- Reduce accidents in the school

Procedure:

In the event of heavy snowfall or extreme weather conditions where the school is unable to guarantee a full capacity of staff, a decision will be taken by the Headteacher whether to close the school. We will aim to make this decision by 7.00am.

School Closure

Any decision to close the school will not be taken lightly as the school recognises the disruption to learning and inconvenience for families. The primary concern must be the safety of staff and students. In deciding whether it is feasible to open the school, the following factors are amongst those considered:

- Safety of travel to and from school for pupils and staff
- Safety of travel from school in the event of significant snowfall during a period when the school is open and pupils and staff are already on site
- Safety in school once pupils and staff are here. This includes having sufficient staffing to give safe pupil staff ratios and ensuring the school has safe routes around the site to minimize the danger of slipping and injury

In the event of school closure we will communicate the decision by one or more of the following means:

- Text message to parents via SchoolComms
- The school's Twitter and Facebook accounts
- The school website and Warrington Borough Council website as soon as possible
- A message on local radio station Wire FM (FM 107.7) who will read out the list of schools affected by school closures at regular intervals.

All attempts will be made to open the school as soon as possible and any decision on re-opening will be communicated by SchoolComms, the school's website, Twitter and Facebook.

If the school is closed for more than one day, work will be set for students to complete via Show My Homework, if appropriate.

If there is no closure message on our website, we intend to open and all students will be expected to attend.

School Closure during School Day

In the event that the weather seriously deteriorates during school hours and the decision to close the school is made, we will endeavour to arrange for the school buses to collect the students. Parents will be contacted via text, email, Twitter and Facebook. Students will be allowed to use their own mobile phones to contact home.