



Emanuel School

School Closure Due to Severe Weather

Whole school closure will only be undertaken as a last resort. Every effort will be made to keep the school open during periods of severe weather. However, there may be occasions, in the interests of health and safety for staff and pupils, where the school site is closed.

These could include, but are not limited to, unavailability of facilities due to significant damage (storm damage, flooding, frozen or burst pipes, breakdown in heating etc.), large scale staff absence or extreme weather conditions.

In considering closure the following will be taken into account:

- advice from police, the local authority and other agencies about travel conditions and whether it is safe for significant numbers of pupils and staff to travel to and from school;
- access to the school site for pedestrians, drivers and emergency vehicles;
- whether sufficient numbers of staff are available.

The school will remain open unless conditions are so difficult that the majority of staff and pupils are unable to get to school or it is considered a health and safety risk to have or to keep pupils in school. The decision for school closure rests with the headmaster who will consult with senior staff, the director of finance and administration and estates director.

Severe weather conditions known in advance

Where it is known or evident that conditions are too poor for the school to open and the school is aware of this the day before, all pupils will be informed of closure before the end of the school day. Announcements and updates will also be made via the school website and posted at the earliest opportunity or at the latest by 3.00pm.

Regular updates will then continue to be posted and notice will be given to parents, staff and pupils advising them when the school will reopen.

School closed in the event of poor weather overnight

Where weather conditions deteriorate overnight, the site will be inspected as early as possible and a decision whether to open or close the school will be communicated via the school website at 7.10am. Please refrain from accessing the website until this time to ensure the message can be uploaded efficiently.

Regular updates will then continue to be posted and notice will be given to parents, staff and pupils advising them when the school will reopen.

Closure during the school day

If weather conditions deteriorate during the school day and there is a need for early closure parents will be informed by email and on the school website at the earliest opportunity or at the latest by 3.00pm. A time will be set for dismissal.

Pupils will be sent to their form rooms and those who walk or cycle to school and those using public transport, will be allowed to leave at the agreed time. Pupils awaiting collection by their parents will be sent to wait in the school library. If pupils are unable to leave school for whatever reason, arrangements will be made to look after them until they are able to do so.



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Regular updates will then continue to be posted and notice will be given to parents, staff and pupils advising them when the school will reopen.

School open but limited attendance

If the school is open but not all staff and pupils can travel, the school will endeavour to operate a normal timetable.

It may be necessary to operate a collapsed curriculum for those pupils in school. Timings will be decided depending on the weather conditions. Pupils will be sent home at 3.00pm.

Announcements and regular updates will be given on the school website.

Snowballing

Please note that snowballing is not permitted on the school site and wet break procedures apply.