

# Sandon Primary Academy: Snow, Ice & Severe Weather Closure Decision Making



At Sandon Primary Academy, the safety of our pupils, families and staff is always our priority. During periods of snow or severe weather, we understand that decisions about whether school is open can affect family routines, childcare and travel. This page explains how and when decisions are made.

## How decisions are made

Decisions are based on local, real-time conditions, not just weather forecasts. We consider:

- Road and pavement safety in the local area
- Access to the school site and condition of entrances
- Heating, water and site safety
- Whether sufficient staff can travel safely to school to keep the school within ratios and operational
- Updated weather information overnight and early morning

Weather conditions can change rapidly, which means decisions sometimes cannot be made early.

## Why decisions aren't always made early

We aim to make decisions as early as possible; however:

- Making a decision too early can result in closing unnecessarily if conditions improve.
- Some weather scenarios are more straightforward than others. Clear and sustained poor conditions – such as overnight snowfall combined with freezing temperatures and hazardous road conditions – are easier to assess than situations where snow is forecast for later in the morning and may not occur.
- The absence of visible snowfall does not always mean conditions are safe, as ice and freezing temperatures can still present significant risks.

For this reason, decisions are made using the most up-to-date local information available to ensure the safety of the whole school community.

## When you'll be informed

- We aim to confirm our decision as early as possible on the morning, by 7.30am **where possible**.
- Updates will be shared via Class Dojo - Please check before travelling

## Breakfast Club arrangements

Breakfast Club starts at 7:30am. As decisions are based on the most up-to-date local conditions, confirmation may sometimes be close to this time.

Staffing availability is a key factor in Breakfast Club decisions. Many staff travel from a wide range of locations, and severe weather can affect travel conditions differently across the area & make arriving early for the start of club difficult.

In some circumstances, this may mean that Breakfast Club is closed while the school day remains open.

In clearer situations, where severe weather is forecast and conditions are unlikely to improve, a decision about Breakfast Club may be communicated the evening before.

We strongly recommend that families who rely on Breakfast Club have a back-up childcare plan in place during periods of severe weather, in case arrangements need to change at short notice.

## Different circumstances for different families

We understand that families' circumstances vary greatly. When severe weather affects school opening, any decision will impact families differently. Some families may feel it is safer for school to remain closed, while others may rely on school being open due to work or childcare commitments.

Our role is to make the safest overall decision for the school community, based on the information available at the time, recognising that no single decision can meet everyone's individual needs.