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FEDERATION OF



**FOLLIFOOT & SPOFFORTH**

CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOLS



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*Love Learn Thrive*

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# **Severe Weather Policy (Parents)**

Federation of Follifoot and  
Spofforth CE Primary Schools

## Rationale

When the local area experiences severe snow conditions or icy conditions, the Schools in the Federation will aim to remain open as long as:

1. The site is safe to access and heating is working.
2. There are enough teaching staff to safely supervise the children throughout the day.
3. Meals can be offered. This may include a cold alternative.
4. A member of the leadership team is on site.

## Aims

We aim to avoid:

- Unnecessary risks travelling to and from school.
- The stranding of pupils, parents and staff.
- Excessive impact on children's education.
- Accidents on and around the school site.

The schools will aim to stay open to ensure continuity of education for all children and to ensure that families that do not have suitable childcare arrangements in place are not disadvantaged or financially penalised by a decision to close.

## The Decision

The decision to close the school can only be taken by the Executive Headteacher or their representative. This decision will be based on an inspection of the school site, an analysis of road conditions around the school and consideration of the BBC weather forecast for the rest of the day. The decision to remain open or closed will aim to be made before 7.00am.

Parents and Carers will then be advised that the School/Nursery are either open/closed for the day or that there is a delayed start time to allow staff, parents, carers and children more time for their journey to school.

Notification of closure or delayed opening will be primarily through text messaging, via the school's website, Remote Learning Platforms and the local radio.

It is vital that parents read the message and information themselves, rather than rely on a verbal version from others. Arrangements may be very specific and change from day to day.

Parents are asked to exercise extreme caution when bringing their children to school and should walk through the school grounds with great care. Staff will do their best to remove all snow and ice, but this is not always possible. We will relax our normal high expectations of punctuality and **no child will receive a late mark**. At the end of the school day, the children should be collected as usual. We will advise parents during the day if after school clubs are cancelled.

Parents who wish to collect their children early due to road conditions or worsening weather may do so. If the decision is made to close the school during the day, parents and carers will be notified via the systems outlined above. Children will always be supervised by a school member of staff until collected by a parent/carer. School will remain open until all children have been collected by a responsible adult.

On such days, children's access to the school playground and outdoor areas may be restricted for Health and Safety reasons. Parents are reminded to ensure that their children have warm coats, hats, gloves and suitable footwear for the weather conditions.

### **Communication**

Once a decision is made, the school phone system is likely to be very busy and it may not be possible to get through. We would ask parents to refer to the means of communication outlined above instead.

### **PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL TO ASK IF WE ARE OPEN.**

If the school is closed, a member of staff (where possible) will be available at school to ensure that messages and communication are maintained for the first few hours of closure.

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Will I be contacted in the event of snow/ice?**

There will be communication via the methods outlined above.

#### **Do I need to contact school?**

If school is open and you decide not to travel because of the road/pavement conditions, please inform us, so that we know the children are safe. Please contact the School Office to inform the office staff about absence.

#### **Should I travel to school or not?**

Always check your text messages and the website first. Parents and staff have to decide whether it is safe for them to make the journey to school, as we would not wish to risk the safety of any member of our school community. Please remember that you are responsible for the safety of your child/children until they enter the school building and must wait with them until a member of staff arrives to open the entrance doors.

#### **Will there be before/after-school clubs?**

If school is open at the normal time, then Breakfast/Before School club will operate as usual. However, if there is a delayed start to the school day, there will be no Breakfast/Before School club. If school is open, any after school clubs will run if there is not a deterioration in weather conditions during the school day. We will advise parents during the day if after school provision is cancelled. Please keep the school informed if you are delayed on your way to collect the children. As always, we will look after the children until you arrive.

#### **When should I collect my child?**

Children should be collected at the usual time, unless the weather conditions worsen, in which case the school will contact you to advise of weather conditions via the communication systems outlined above. You may then decide if you wish to collect your child/children early.

#### **What if I cannot reach school to collect my child?**

Members of staff will stay in school until **all** children have been collected.

### **What will be the impact on my child's education?**

On days when the weather is extreme, children may not be taught by their usual teachers or in their usual classes, as we may not have our full quota of staff. However, we will ensure that we have an educationally valid day. If there is a prolonged closure of the school, staff will advise of work that may be completed at home, via our Remote Learning platforms.