



Adverse Weather Policy 2025

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1. Introduction

1.1 As we are all aware, when the snow comes it creates havoc with transport or communications and under such circumstances it is often very difficult for the staff who live several miles away to get in to school for the start of the day. On the other hand, because the vast majority of our pupils live locally, most of them manage to arrive on time. Clearly, this means that we could have almost a full complement of pupils and only part of the staff. In the event of extreme weather, this “Snow Plan” will apply and it ensures that all the pupils are looked after and are safe.

1.2 In matters related to adverse weather conditions, the school will stay open whenever possible, provided the safety of children and staff can be maintained. However, there may be occasions where, due to the health and safety of children and staff, the school has to close. The importance of clear communication is essential and this plan outlines our procedure in such circumstances.

2. Policy

2.1 It is policy that school will open on all normal school days even when some poor road conditions exist. However, in the event of a heavy snowfall, we cannot guarantee that staff will be able to attend school and a decision to close or restrict school opening will have to be made.

2.2 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. Thereafter, the school will be empty.

2.3 If there is an enforced school closure, we cannot look after children, however, those already delivered to school prior to a decision being made will of course be looked after until they can be collected.

3 Decision

3.1 The decision to stay open or close the school will, where possible, be made by 8.15 a.m. This will be based on:

- the ability of staff to get to school
- the safety /conditions in the building, given the weather and staff shortages;
- the likelihood of weather becoming even worse during the day.

3.2 In adverse weather conditions staff are asked to telephone their headteacher and advise if they can travel to work by 7.45 a.m.

3.3 If the weather conditions are severe enough to force closure or restricted opening, this decision will be communicated by the following means:

- Staff: What’s App Text Messaging Service and text messages from SLT/phase leaders
- Via the school website (www.newallgreen.manchester.sch.uk)
- School Spider Messaging Service
- Local radio
- The school phone is likely to be very busy and it may not be possible to get through, so we would ask parents and carers to use the means of communication outlined above instead and not to telephone to ask if school is open.

3.4 Once this decision has been made to close the school it will not be reversed, even if weather conditions improve. Please accept our apologies in advance if the decision turns out to be the wrong one but we have to decide on the basis of the information we have at the time and with enough notice to allow parents to make childcare arrangements.

3. Restricted opening

4.1 This occurs where school is open but some staff may be unable to attend or where weather conditions may prevent some pupils from attending:

4.2 At the end of the day, the children should be collected as usual but there will be no after-school clubs or staff meetings. Parents who wish to collect their children early due to the road conditions may do so. On such days, children's access to the playground may be restricted.

4. Advice to Parents and Carers for extreme weather conditions

4.1 If the school has to close because of extreme conditions during school hours, the school will email/call /message you to collect your child.

4.2 Parents of children who walk to school alone are asked to check school is opening before children set off and if children usually walk home alone it would be advisable to collect them in snowy conditions.

4.3 If conditions do not improve on subsequent days please check the school website and School Spider for updates.

5.3 Parents are reminded to ensure their children have warm clothes and suitable footwear in case their journey is disrupted or they are stranded.

5.4 No snowballing in the playground. This is in the best interests of health and safety for all pupils, staff and visitors as grit or sand will have been spread.

Q&A – snowy days when school is open

Do I need to contact school?

If you decide not to travel because of the road conditions, please let us know by emailing the school office admin@newallgreen.manchester.sch.uk so that we know the children are safe.

Should I travel to school or not?

Always check the website and for messages from school first. Parents/carers and staff must decide whether it is safe for them to make the journey to school. Where possible, the school will try to ensure that there is someone at school to greet the pupils but if you arrive at school and no member of staff is present, *your children must remain your responsibility and should not be left unattended at school.*

Will there be after-school clubs?

No. Please keep the office informed if you are delayed on your way to collect the children. As always, we will look after the pupils until you get there.

When should I collect my child?

Parents who decide to bring their children to school are welcome to collect their child early if it suits them, otherwise please collect at the normal time.

Impact on education

On days when the school has restricted opening, 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 which will include English and maths at an appropriate level. If there is a prolonged closure of the school, staff will advise work that may be completed via School Spider or MS Teams.

Support if stranded in school

A member of staff will stay in school until all children have been collected.

Food – the school kitchen holds a small stock of food throughout the term which can be used to ensure a snack for anyone stranded.

Internal safety measures/checks

Fire escapes and routes – to be cleared and salted as a priority.

Salting – the caretaker will ensure sufficient stock. Salting in and around the paths for access to the school will commence at 7am each day as necessary and during the day if conditions require.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals, you will receive a voucher if school is closed due to adverse weather. This will be sent via email and text message.