



Gosfield School

Severe Weather Policy

Whole School Policy, including EYFS

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, ice or flooding, the prime concern of the school will always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of childcare.

The school aims to remain open in the event of severe weather. We feel this is important for those parents who are relying on us to care for their children in term time. In the event of severe weather, we cannot guarantee a normal school day.

However, there are certain factors which may lead to the school closing, such as whether:

- There are enough members of staff to be able to provide satisfactory care.
- The severity of the weather conditions is on such a major scale that it is unlikely that many people will be able, physically, to make it into school.
- The school can provide lunch for the pupils.
- The school grounds are sufficiently safe for pupils, parents and staff.
- The school has sufficient heating.
- The school has lighting and hot water across the site.
- External agencies such as the police, local government and motoring organisations are advising against school travel in our region.

Communicating With Staff and Parents

The school will post whether the school is open on the website as soon as possible, normally by 7am on the day. Staff and parents will also be notified by text message.

If severe weather conditions develop during the school day we will consider closing the school early, but we will aim to remain open until the end of the normal school day at 3.45pm. Again this would be communicated via the website and text message.

BBC Essex will be contacted and if the school is closed this information should also appear on their website.

If parents wish to collect their child(ren) from school before this time, they are welcome to do so, but please ensure they are signed out.

Anyone struggling to collect their child by 3.45pm, due to poor road conditions or transport arrangements, should contact the school to inform us of the likely collection time.

There is no need for parents to contact the school regarding their decision to travel or not. This will help avoid blocked phone lines.

School Buses

The decision not to run the school buses will be made by a member of the Senior Leadership Team by 7am. Parents will be notified by text if the bus is not running and details will be put on the website.

The Decision to Travel

Parents have to decide whether it is safe and desirable for them to make the journey into school. If the school is open, and once we have established which pupils we have on site, we will construct a schedule for the day which will include, where possible, relevant academic work, especially for those who may be preparing for exams, and a range of activities aimed at making the day as productive as possible.

If parents make the decision to travel in, it doesn't matter what time their child(ren) arrive. We will expect children to arrive throughout the morning. However, it is important that children sign in and register at the front office.

PM**October 2017**