



Adverse Weather Guidance for Parents & Carers

At Westways our aim is to remain open whenever possible - we believe it is important to continue children's learning and to support families by keeping the school operating safely. However, there can be times when severe weather makes it unfeasible to open or remain open safely, due to risks to pupils, staff, parents and carers.

School closure & adjustments to the school day

- As a general rule, assume the school is open unless you are informed otherwise.
- If the school has to close, we will notify you as early as possible via email.
- To allow safe travel for staff and pupils, we may need to adjust the normal routine by opening later or closing earlier - parents and carers will be notified in advance if this is the case.

Attendance & travel

- If school is open, we expect all children to attend - every day in school counts towards their learning and progress.
- Please allow extra time for journeys and ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather, for example with:
 - A warm coat;
 - Sensible footwear (boots or shoes with grip);
 - Gloves, hat and, if possible, a change of clothes.
- Only in exceptional circumstances, where travel is genuinely unsafe, should your child remain at home. Sometimes, walking to school may be the safest option if roads are hazardous.
- If your child cannot attend due to exceptional circumstances, please inform us at school.

Communication

- Please avoid phoning school to ask if we are open, unless essential, as we may need the lines free for urgent matters.
- We aim to communicate promptly with parents and carers if there are any changes during the school day or to drop-off/pick-up arrangements.
- We ask parents and carers to collect their children promptly, where possible, if worsening weather during the day results in a decision to close the school.
- Please make sure the school office always has your up-to-date contact details for emergency messages.

Site safety

- For safety, we ask all children and parents and carers to stay off any ice and keep to the gritted paths.
- During the school day, children may be able to enjoy the snow but only if it is safe to do so.
- Sometimes we restrict access to the school site as set out in our [Ice and Snow Clearance Policy](#) - this ensures that necessary routes are prioritised and treated during icy conditions.
- We ask that parents and carers wear suitable footwear whilst on the school site and ensure that they supervise their children before and after school to ensure they do not play in unsafe areas (e.g. on icy surfaces; the trim trails).