



Bad Weather Procedures - Vyners School

The following is a broad statement of intent, setting out the processes that will be followed in the event the school has to close because of bad weather. Please note that the school may need to respond flexibly, depending on the circumstances. In all cases, the school will balance the desire to ensure continued education for students against the need to keep both students and staff safe.

All reasonable efforts will be made to ensure that the delivery of education can continue and a partial closure or a transfer to home learning will always be considered before the decision is made to completely close the school.

In deciding whether to open the school, consideration is given to both the safety of staff and students whilst on the school site and the dangers posed by students and staff travelling to and from school in poor weather. Parents are advised that many staff, especially teachers, do not live locally, and therefore face significant journeys in poor weather.

The school has a risk assessment in place particularly covering a response to snow and ice. The school site is extensive and the strategy will be to initially clear snow and ice from designated routes around the school, rather than the whole site. Students will be asked to keep to these routes. The school may also close certain parts of the site e.g. the AWP, if student safety cannot be guaranteed.

If there are insufficient staff on site to supervise the whole school community, the school will either close, or will open only for specific year groups. Priority will be given to Years 11 and 13 in the first instance. Other students may transfer to home learning for the day.

Communication

In the event of bad weather overnight, a decision will be made before 7.00am as to whether the school can open or needs to be closed.

In the event of closure, the school will send text messages to parents via Edulink and will also put a banner on the homepage of the school website.

Staff will be informed via a whole staff email and an Edulink message.

Revised timetables

If weather conditions indicate that a partial opening may be possible, the school will follow the following timetable:

School starts – 9.45am and students go straight to their P2 lesson.

Lesson: P2 – 9.55am – 10.55am

Break: 10.55am - 11.20am

Lesson: P3 – 11.20am -12.20pm

Lesson: P4 – 12.25pm – 1.25pm

Lunch: 1.25pm – 1.55pm

School ends – 2pm

If the school day is shortened, the school will consider whether it is possible to supervise vulnerable students on site for the remainder of the school day. This will only be offered though in exceptional circumstances, and where it is safe for both staff and students to do so.

A separate decision will be made in relation to after school activities such as clubs, homework groups and evening events such as concerts and productions. Whilst it may be possible to open the school as normal during the day, deteriorating weather conditions may necessitate these events being cancelled or postponed for safety reasons.

Transfer to Home learning

In the event of either a partial or full school closure, active consideration will be given to a transfer to home learning for students. All work will be set either on google classroom. In some cases, work may consist of an instruction to students to log onto another online learning platform (e.g. Hegarty Maths, Seneca or Bedrock) to complete work. Between 30 and 50 minutes of work will be set for each missed lesson. Student completion of work will be checked by the class teacher at the next lesson which takes place back in school.

There is no expectation that teachers will set loom lessons or conduct live lessons on day 1 of any closure.

Uniform rules

In the event of poor weather conditions, the school encourages students to wear appropriate outer clothing, especially footwear. The general expectation is that students will continue to wear their uniform to school. Where certain provisions are relaxed however (e.g. students may be allowed to wear non-school shoes) these will be clearly communicated to parents.

January 2025