



## **Snow and Extreme Weather Policy**

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of pupils, parents and staff.

The decision to close the school will take account of the safety of all our pupils, parents and staff, some of whom travel a great distance to school each day. We will always aim to open the school in the event of bad weather, as long as it is safe to do so.

If the school is open in snow or bad weather the decision as to whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parent, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child care.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children may arrive later than normal; parents should endeavour to contact the school to let them know they are on their way if likely to be delayed. The school recognises there will be isolated instances where families are cut off, even where the clear majority of children can get into school. In such instances parents should inform the school of the circumstances of this exceptional situation, as the school has a duty to clarify the circumstances of each case so as to be able to formally authorise the absence to the Local Authority. Parents acting on the assumption that the school would be closed without gaining confirmation, or failing to inform the school of the circumstances that prevents the child coming into school risks their child's absence being recorded as unauthorised.

In the event of bad weather, parents should check to see if the school is open before travelling to the site. There are a number of ways to confirm whether the school is open or closed.

- Listen for list of school closures on the local radio (Time FM 107.5)
- Visit the school websites –  
[www.riseparkinfants.co.uk](http://www.riseparkinfants.co.uk)  
[www.riseparkjuniors.co.uk](http://www.riseparkjuniors.co.uk)  
[www.riseparkacademytrust.co.uk](http://www.riseparkacademytrust.co.uk)
- Check the list of school closures on the Havering Council Website:  
[www.havering.gov.uk](http://www.havering.gov.uk)
- Check for a Parentmail text/e mail message

Please check the e mail address attached to your Parentmail account, as we will also be updating parents via the Parentmail system.



If the school is closed, we will try and make a decision as early as possible (e.g. by 7am each morning) and will intend to re-open as soon as we can.

If the school does open but extreme weather develops during the day, we will attempt to remain open until the end of the usual school day. However this is not always possible when roads are becoming treacherous, in which case parents will be contacted via Parentmail and asked to arrange for their children to be collected, with the password, as soon as possible. Under these conditions we will take verbal permission for children to be collected by a nominated adult. Normal lessons may be curtailed and the remaining pupils assembled in groups under the supervision of authorised members of staff, to await collection.

During inclement weather only the front entrance will be cleared for entry/exit, in accordance with the school Snow Plan, and the rear entrance will remain closed until the weather conditions improve.

Staff will always make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of the school day, in which case some classes may need to be assembled together until the staff member arrives. It may also be necessary to ask all children to bring packed lunches if the kitchen staff are unable to reach school safely.

December 2018.