



Oakworth Primary School Snow Plan

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND CARERS



Aim

This plan covers the contingencies made for a heavy snowfall or severe ice, which may result in enforced School and/or Nursery closure.

This plan aims to prevent:

- Unnecessary risks travelling to and from school (through good communication).
- The stranding of pupils and staff.
- Excessive impact on children's education.
- Accidents on the school site.

Policy

It is Bronte Academy Trust policy that Oakworth Primary 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/Nursery opening may have to be made. It is likely that we would have to close our Nursery classes if we have heavy snow/severe ice, due to the high legal staffing ratios required for pre-school age children. Many of our teachers travel some distance to the school and we simply would not have sufficient staff here to open Nursery should road conditions prove difficult.

Decision

The decision to open or close the School and/or Nursery will be taken by the Headteacher or Assistant Headteacher, in collaboration with the Chair of Governors, and **will be made by 7.00am**. This decision will be based on an inspection of the school site with the Site Manager, an analysis of road conditions around the school and consideration of the BBC weather forecast for the rest of the day. **Parents and Carers will then be advised that the School/Nursery are either open or closed for the day- delayed opening will not be considered as an option** (as feedback has told us that this is difficult for many of our families to facilitate). This decision will be final.

If the weather conditions are severe enough to force closure, this will be communicated to parents/carers by the following means:

- Via text message and email to parents/carers and staff.
- On the school website: www.oakworthprimary.co.uk
- Through the Bradford Schools' Online website:
<https://bso.bradford.gov.uk/Schools/Home.aspx#schoolclosures>
- On the school's Twitter account: @oakworthprimary

Parents/carers are asked to exercise extreme caution when bringing their children to school and should walk through the school grounds with great care. Staff will do their best to remove all snow and ice, but this is not always possible. We will relax our normal high expectations of punctuality and **no child will receive a late mark**.

At the end of the school day, the children should be collected as usual. Care Club will be open, but there will be no other after-school clubs or staff meetings. Parents/carers who wish to collect their children early due to road conditions or worsening weather may do so.

On such days, children's access to the school playground and outdoor areas may be restricted for Health and Safety reasons. Parents/carers are reminded to ensure that their

children have warm coats, hats, gloves and suitable footwear for the weather conditions. You may also wish to send a change of clothes; in case your child gets wet in the snow.

Communication

Once a decision is made, the school phone system is likely to be very busy and it may not be possible to get through, so we would ask parents/carers to refer to the means of communication outlined above instead. **PLEASE DO NOT PHONE THE SCHOOL TO ASK IF WE ARE OPEN.**

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.

Internal safety measures/checks

Fire escapes and routes – these will be cleared and gritted as a priority.

Gritting – the Site Manager will ensure sufficient stock. Gritting in and around the paths for access to the school will commence at 7.00 am each day, as necessary and during the day if conditions require.

Q&A – Snowy days when school is open

Will I be contacted in the event of snow/ice?

There will be communication via the methods outlined above.

Do I need to contact school?

If school is open and you decide not to travel because of the road/pavement conditions, please inform us, so that we know the children are safe. Please ring the School Office on 01535 642309 or email the school at office.oakworth@brontecademytrust.org.uk

Should I travel to school or not?

Always check your text messages and the website first. Parents/carers and staff have to decide whether it is safe for them to make the journey to school, as we would not wish to risk the safety of any member of our school community. Please remember that you are responsible for the safety of your child/children until they enter the school building and must wait with them until a member of staff arrives to open the entrance doors.

Will there be before/after-school clubs?

The before and after school Care Club will be open, however, the Year 6 Morning Maths, Nurture Breakfast Club and any before/after school sports clubs will not. Please keep the school informed if you are delayed on your way to collect your children. As always, we will look after the children until you arrive.

When should I collect my child?

Children should be collected at the usual time unless the weather conditions worsen, in which case the school will contact you to advise of weather conditions via the communication systems outlined above. You may then decide if you wish to collect your child/children early.

What if I cannot reach school to collect my child?

Members of staff will stay in school until **all** children have been collected.

Food – the school kitchen holds a stock of food, which can be used to provide a snack for anyone stranded.

Heat – as the system is gas-fired, this should not be affected. In the event of breakdown and the necessity to close the school, communication will be through the means outlined above.

What will be the impact on my child's education?

On days when the weather is extreme, 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. If there is a prolonged closure of the school, staff will advise of work that may be completed at home, via the school website.