



St. Peter's Smithills Dean CE Primary School

Snow and Ice Protocol

Purpose

To ensure the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff and visitors during periods of snow and icy weather, while maintaining school opening wherever it is safe to do so.

1. Decision to Open or Close

- The Headteacher will decide whether the school opens, partially opens (e.g. late start), or closes, based on:
 - Site safety
 - Weather conditions and forecasts
 - Staffing levels
 - Travel conditions
- Decisions will be communicated to families as early as possible via agreed school channels: usually a text message and a follow up email with more details.

2. Site Safety

- Priority areas will be cleared and gritted:
 - Main entrances and exits
 - Fire exits
 - Essential walkways
- Unsafe areas will be clearly cordoned off.
- Outdoor areas may be restricted or closed if conditions are unsafe.
- Outdoor PE will be adapted or moved indoors where necessary.

3. Playtimes and Snow Play

- Snow play may be permitted only if risk assessed and supervised.
- Where allowed:
 - Designated snow-play areas will be used
 - Increased staff supervision will be in place
 - Ice throwing is not permitted
- If snow play is not permitted, children will be provided with alternative indoor or structured activities.
- Pupils must wear appropriate winter clothing.

4. Supervision and Staffing

- Additional staff may be deployed at:
 - Entrances and exits
 - Transition times
 - Playtimes
- Staff should not take unreasonable risks travelling to school.
- Adjustments to duties will be made where staffing is reduced.

5. Safeguarding and Pupil Welfare

- All usual safeguarding procedures remain in place.
- Extra vigilance will be given to:
 - Drop-off and pick-up times
 - Slippery areas
 - Excited or unsettled pupils
- Children who are cold or wet will be supported to warm up indoors.

6. Teaching and Learning

- The timetable may be adapted to suit conditions, for example, PE might be moved inside, RWInc might be delayed so more pupils arrive in time for it at the start of the day.
- Snow may be used as a learning opportunity where safe and appropriate.

7. Review

- Following significant snow events, procedures will be reviewed and updated as necessary.

Key Principle:

The school will remain open wherever it is safe to do so, but safety will always take priority.

Updated: September 2026 by Mr. M. Harding (headteacher)