



Snow Policy

2023-2025

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Ratified by the Headteacher	
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Contents

1. Snow Days – Information & Procedures..... 3

2. Snowfall Overnight 3

3. School Closure 3

4. Delayed opening 4

5. Heavy Snowfall at Rush Hour 4

6. Snowfall during the School Day 5

7. Snow Clearance 5

8. Failure of the school heating system 5

1. Snow Days – Information & Procedures

In the deep mid-winter it's often time for snow! At school, we are aware that the timings of our decisions to close the school are critical for parents and carers, trying to get their students to school and then get to work. Following a heavy overnight snowfall, we always try and take the judgment on school closure as early as possible in the morning. We aim to make this decision early enough for parents/carers to make alternative plans for childcare or, if there is a heavy snow fall during the day, with enough notice as possible for parents/carers or an alternate to pick up. Whatever the time of day, please be assured that the decision to close the school is taken after considering many factors, particularly the health and safety of our students and staff, and is not taken lightly.

2. Snowfall Overnight

3. School Closure

Heavy snowfall overnight may result in access to the school being restricted or may stop students, parents/carers and staff from getting to school safely. If these conditions apply, the following steps will be taken:

- The Headteacher will evaluate the prevailing conditions at the school site and in the area.
- Staff will contact the Headteacher as early as possible, but before 7.30am to advise of their capability of getting to work safely.
- If access to the school is regarded as too dangerous or there would be too few staff to teach the students, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher will take the decision to close the school. **We aim to make this decision by 7.45am.**
- The Headteacher will then register the school closure with Warwickshire County Council.
- The school will communicate what is happening to parents via email and text message. Please ensure the school has you most up to date email and mobile phone number at all times to be able to contact you quickly.
- Our school website (www.wa.thrive.ac) will be updated with information regarding the school closure.

4. Delayed opening

In the event that poor local road conditions result in pupils or staff taking a longer time to arrive at school, the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher may decide to open the school later or extend the time for registration so that everyone can get to school safely. If the decision for opening later is agreed, following steps will be taken:

- The school will communicate what is happening to parents via email and text message.
- Our school website (www.wa.thrive.ac) will be updated with information regarding the delayed opening.
- The Headteacher will need to assess the number of staff members who have arrived at school by 8.45am. If there is a sufficient number of staff who have been successful in arriving at school, the Headteacher will keep the school open, but continue to reassess the situation throughout the day. If, at any point, it is felt that the students should go home, the school will contact parents and carers via text and/or email of the early closure and contact transport to arrange for the students to be collected.
- The school status will be updated on our website (www.wa.thrive.ac)
- If the school is not forced to close, then normal pick up and collection arrangements will apply.

5. Heavy Snowfall at Rush Hour

If there is heavy snowfall during the rush hour period when pupils and staff are travelling to school, and teachers have registered their delayed arrival with the school, then the following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher and the Deputy Headteacher may decide to close the school or delay opening, in which case the respective procedures given above will apply.
- If it is decided that the school will open, it will be left to the best judgement of parents and carers to decide for themselves if it is safe for their child to attempt to make the journey to school, even if it means a late arrival.
- If pupils have already been dropped off by transport, they will be safely supervised.

6. Snowfall during the School Day

In the event of a heavy snowfall and/or there is a significant deterioration in local conditions occurring during the school day, so that the return home may become unsafe, then the Headteacher may decide to close the school. The following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher will register the school closure with Warwickshire County Council
- Parents will be contacted by text and/or email by the school. The school status will be updated on our own website (www.wa.thrive.ac)
- Staff will remain on site to supervise the students with an acceptable ratio of staff to pupils until all the students are collected.

7. Snow Clearance

- If there is heavy snow on the ground and weather forecasts show that no more snow is expected to fall in the locality, we will attempt to clear and make safe our school playground, paths and parking areas as quickly possible. We request that there are no students on site during the clearance operation.

8. Failure of the school heating system

In the unlikely event of a malfunction or total failure of the heating system, the Headteacher might have to take a decision to close the school. It is understood that this is very inconvenient for everyone, but a minimum temperature is mandated by law and a decision to close the school is not taken lightly. If problems with the heating system occur, the following procedures will be followed:

- The Headteacher will register the closure of the school with Warwickshire County Council
- If the failure occurs during the school day, parents will be contacted by text and/or email by the school and the school will contact transport providers.
- The school status will be updated on our website (www.wa.thrive.ac)
- Staff will remain on site to supervise the students awaiting collection, with an acceptable ratio of staff to pupils.

- Information on the repairs to the heating system will be disseminated and updated via the school website as soon as possible.

Thank you for your consideration and please use our website, for information and updates. We would be grateful if you could avoid telephoning the school wherever possible. If you need to contact the school, please use email.

Please stay safe!