

# Nishkam School Trust



## Snow and Bad Weather

Policy Version	Date Approved	Signed by Director	Signed by Executive Principal	Signed by School Lead
1.2	Dec 14			
1.3	Mar 17			

## **Nishkam School Trust – Snow & Bad Weather Policy**

It is the policy of Nishkam School to make every effort to remain open whenever possible.

The decision to close the school either before or during the school day will be made by the Principal/Headteacher in conjunction with the governing body. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

1. Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
2. Conditions on site are dangerous
3. Conditions are considered to be or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.
4. Heating failure or inability to warm the school to reasonable and acceptable levels

### If the school is to close:

1. The closure will be recorded on the school website
2. Parents will be alerted to the closure by either the school texting service or email service by the Principal/Headteacher once the closure has been agreed with Governors.

The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents. However parents are expected to check the website and/or texts when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather pupils 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 pupils 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. 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 pupil coming into school risks their child being registered as an un-authorised absence. Where the school is officially closed, all absence is counted as authorised absence.

In the event of the school having to close during the day due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will be contacted by phone/mobile/email/text and asked to collect their child/ren. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

In the event of snow some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, pupils and visitors will be made aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous. Pupils will also be reminded of this in assembly. Before and after school opening hours parents are responsible for ensuring their pupils do not slide on the school playground.

In icy conditions the Site Manager will salt wide pathways from the front gate to the front door

Where necessary, essential pathways will be maintained as clear as possible throughout the day.

On school days where the school is closed to pupils, the pathway will still be maintained during snow and ice weather on a daily basis by the Site Manager, so as to keep the pathways clear and prevent build-up of ice and snow.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School will be opened earlier than the normal start of school day. Parents at primary school may be required to supervise their children in the school hall/classrooms/designated area until staff are ready to formally take supervision of the pupils).

During adverse weather conditions, the playground may be out of bounds to parents and pupils at the beginning and end of school, and if the Principal/Headteacher decides it necessary, at break times as well.

In the Principal/Headteacher's absence the Senior Teacher on site will assume responsibility for making all decisions relating to the Adverse Weather Policy.

**Monitoring, Review and Evaluation**

The Governing Body will review this policy at least every two years and assess its implementation and effectiveness.