



The Mall School

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Snow Policy

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, the prime concern of the School will always be the safety of the pupils and staff. The decision whether or not to send a pupil to School, however, must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of childcare.

The School aims to remain open in the event of snow. We feel this is important for those parents who are relying on us to care for their children in term time. In the event of heavy snowfall, we cannot guarantee a normal school day.

However, there are certain factors which may lead to the School closing, such as whether:

- there are enough members of staff to be able to provide satisfactory care;
- the severity of the weather conditions is on such a major scale that it is unlikely that many people will be able, physically, to make it into School;
- the School can provide lunch for the children;
- the School grounds are sufficiently safe for children, parents and staff;
- the School has sufficient heating;
- the School has lighting and hot water across the site;
- external agencies, e.g. police, local government, motoring organisations etc, are advising against School travel in our region.

If the School is to be open, we will declare this a '**Snow Day**' and will post this on the website as soon as possible and normally by 7.30am via *Clarion Call*.

All boys are to be dropped off at the main site and are to report to the Theatre.

If the School is open but our mini-buses are not running, parents will be phoned by the bus driver soon after 7.00am.

When the School is open, we will remain open until the end of the working school day as follows:

- 3.00pm for Reception and Year 1
- 3.30pm for Year 2 and 3
- 4.00pm for Years 4 to 8

The series of frequently asked questions on the following pages should answer any queries you may have.

SNOW POLICY – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Will parents be contacted in the event of snow?

Our website www.themallschool.org.uk should be consulted regularly. We will also endeavour to *Clarion Call* everyone to ensure a clear message is sent.

Do I need to contact the School?

Any parent who considers the journey to School too dangerous or too difficult on a given day should phone to inform us that they have decided not to attend. Please use the extension dedicated to boys' sickness absence: 020 8977 2523 (option 1) or email reception@themallschool.org.uk.

To travel to School or not?

Parents have to decide whether it is safe and desirable for them to make the journey into School. If the School is open, and once we have established which pupils we have on site, we will construct a schedule for the day which will include, where possible, relevant academic work - especially for those who may be preparing for exams – and a range of activities aimed at making the day as productive as possible.

Does it matter what time we arrive at School?

No. We will expect boys to arrive throughout the morning.

What will happen if heavy snow arrives during the school day?

We may declare a 'Snow Day' resulting in the School closing at 4.00pm. This would be communicated to you via the website and *Clarion Call*. Any parent who fears during the day that the weather where they live is getting worse and are worried, should phone the School and inform us that they wish to take their son home early. We will always want to help parents in these circumstances as well as strive to keep the School open.

What will happen if my child was due to attend a school trip?

Any necessary adjustments will be communicated to you via the website and *Clarion Call*.

When should I collect my child?

School will close at 4.00pm on Snow Days. Anyone struggling to collect their child by 4.00pm, due to poor road conditions, transport arrangements, etc, should contact the School to inform us of the likely collection time.

Where do I go to collect my child?

Please collect your child from your usual collection point(s) unless notified otherwise.

Will there be after school activities?

There will be no after school activities, games or clubs. However, should you be delayed in collecting your child, please ring the School office to keep us informed. As always, we will look after the children until you are able to get here, but please remember that members of staff will also be anxious to get home if the weather and road conditions are poor.

Spring 2017

(Review Spring 2020)