

PINNER WOOD SCHOOL



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Approval Authority

Effective From: September 2024

Date Ratified by GB:

Next Review Date: September 2026

Signed by Chair of GB:

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY (Non Statutory)

It is the policy of the 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 Headteacher. The school will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- ☐ Insufficient staff are able to come in to keep the school running safely.
- ☐ Conditions on site are dangerous
- ☐ Conditions are considered to be, or are anticipated to later become too hazardous for travel.

If the school is to close:

The closure will be recorded on the Pinner Wood School Website (www.pinnerwood.harrow.sch.uk); Pinner Wood School Instagram (@PinnerWoodSch) on the instruction of the Headteacher. We will also e-mail families.

Parents who have provided up to date mobile email addresses will be alerted to the closure using the Arbor and Seesaw service activated by the Headteacher once the closure has been decided.

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 websites when it is clear that a closure is a possibility.

The school appreciates that during bad weather children 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 children 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 child 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:

Students will be supervised by staff until parents can be contacted by telephone for permission or until the normal end of the school day, whichever is sooner.

Parents will be contacted by email to advise them of the early closure. Such an early release will only be contemplated in very extreme circumstances.

Students are expected to continue their studies at home and advice will be provided on the School website.

Site safety

In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children, visitors and staff will be aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain hazardous. Students will also be reminded of this in assembly.

In icy conditions the site team will make every endeavour to salt pathways from the main Student gates to the nearest entrance into the building.

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

On school days where the school is closed to Students, the site team and Senior Staff will monitor conditions in order to reopen the school as soon as it is safe to do so.

During significant adverse weather conditions, the School will be open from 8.30am for children to come inside.

During adverse weather conditions, the playgrounds may be out of bounds at the beginning and end of school, and if necessary, at break times as well.

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

Impact on staff

Our first priority is for the Students of Pinner Wood School. However, it is understood that members of staff will also need to take responsibility for their own children as well as their own transport arrangements in adverse weather conditions.

When the school is open, it is expected that all staff will do their best to get to work even if this means that they will be late. Keeping the school informed of any problems that staff encounter is the normal procedure.

If Students are dismissed during the school day, we will need to ensure adequate supervision for those who remain in school. Staff will be informed by Senior Staff that they can leave as soon as is reasonably possible. Priority will be given to those staff who have been advised by their child's school that their child *must* be collected because their school is also closing and/or those that live furthest away.

If the school is closed

Staff must check the school website regularly for updates. It is expected that staff will use any work time spent at home in worthwhile preparation and planning.