

SNOW POLICY: IMPORTANT

The following is taken from the school's Safeguarding Policy and should prepare parents/carers for what to expect when it snows.

The school will only close without prior notice as a last resort. The Headteacher or her representative will remain on site until the last child is collected.

Policy in Practice What the school does to assist in the event of icy weather conditions.

It is not practical to grit the entire site, but as part of the gritting policy, safe routes round the site and across the South Playground have been identified and will be gritted before giving access to the site, thereby minimising the risks to children parents and visitors. The car park will also be gritted.

Children are not allowed to make slides on the playgrounds. Playgrounds are gritted if practical before 8:30am and when not, by morning break. At playtimes a decision as to whether children are to be allowed outside will be made by the senior teacher on duty in conjunction with a member of the Senior Management Team.

Children may not throw snowballs on the playgrounds. However if the field is covered by thick snow pupils may be allowed to play on the field in the snow, make snowman and throw snowballs. Those not wishing to throw snow (or indeed be hit by snowballs) should stay on the playgrounds. The school believes that playing in and throwing snow is part of a child's life experiences.

In extreme cases the Headteacher may decide that there is no option but to close the school if there is presented a severe health and safety risk. The Chair of Governors will be informed and parents notified via text message. A severe

Health and Safety Risk would be presented if insufficient staff could reach the school or indeed the health and safety of staff meant that they should leave early. Due to the location of the school it is expected that the school will be able to remain open. Closing a school at short notice including closing mid way through a day poses considerable difficulties for parents and will only be taken as a very last resort.

A complete heating failure in the winter and/or a loss of the water supply would however result in the school having to close.

Good communication is essential. Parents receive a copy of specific instructions during the winter months via the monthly newsletters and the website. Children have the processes explained to them in the classroom. It is expected that parents adhere to these instructions and pass all relevant information to friends and relatives who may also come to school to bring and collect children. Parents/Carers are asked to be responsible and plan more time for their journey, suitable footwear for having to walk further, wrapping up to keep warm etc....Parents should not expect to be able to park close to the school at these times! Parents and visitors are expected to use the gritted paths rather than walk across the snow and ice.

Snow Policy and Procedures - information for teaching and support staff

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff.

It is expected that all staff will make every reasonable effort to undertake the journey to school. It is appreciated that the journey may take longer than normal and therefore some staff may not be able to arrive before the normal start of school time.

In the event of severe weather, a decision to close the school for pupils will be made by 7am. The



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Head Teacher will make arrangements for PARENTS TO BE INFORMED BY TEXT IF THE SCHOOL IS TO CLOSE.

Updates will be posted on the school's website.
www.molescroftprimary.net and updates through the Arbor system.

In the event of the normal timetable being suspended, a programme of activities will be organised for pupils who arrive at school. Teachers and Teaching Assistants will be delegated to supervise these activities.

Rather than a full closure it is more likely that the school will remain open on a reduced capacity. In such an event, parents/carers will be asked if it is possible to make alternative arrangements for pupils. Where this is not possible the school will remain open for those who need to come to school or for those who cannot go home in the case of an unexpected early closure.

As the number pupils remaining decreases, they will be moved to other classes or the hall.