

St Philip's Catholic Primary School.

Weather Policy: Information and Procedures.



School Closure:

Closing the school makes it very difficult for working parents and the decision is never taken lightly. The safety and wellbeing of our pupils, parents and staff travelling to and from school are a major consideration, but we also have to assess the following:

- Can enough staff get to school on time to look after the children safely at school?
- Is the school site accessible and can it be made safe for use?
- Is it too dangerous to ask children, parents and staff to travel to school or are we putting their safety at risk?
- Can parents safely collect their children at the end of the school day?

The decision about whether or not we close is made by the school's Governing Body through consultation with the Head Teacher and Local Authority and takes into account police and travel advice in severe weather.

When the school does close, we always endeavour to give parents as much notice as possible.

How will parents be notified about a school closure?

- Parents will be sent a text message (as soon as a decision is made) using the school's text messaging service. Please be mindful that networks are busy with texts on snow days and there can be a delay in your message being received.
- Our school will be listed on Sandwell's 'school closure' website page as well as their Facebook page: [facebook.com/sandwellcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/sandwellcouncil) and on their twitter feed: [@sandwellcouncil](https://twitter.com/sandwellcouncil).
- Local radio stations (Free Radio, Heart, Beacon, Radio WM and Galaxy) will be informed and announce the school closure on their breakfast shows.

Closure during the School Day

Should the weather deteriorate during a school day parents will be notified by text message that they have the opportunity to collect children early if they are able and wish to do so.

Please note:

- It is the responsibility of all parents to ensure that contact details are up to date, especially mobile phone numbers for our text message system.
- ***It is the responsibility of all staff to ensure that contact details are up to date, especially mobile phone numbers for our text message system.***
 - *There is no need for parents/staff to contact the school to check whether or not the school is open.*
 - *Closure will be announced to staff and parents on the radio stations, displayed on Sandwell's or our website or via a text message. If you do not hear by any of the above media then the school will be open and all to attend as normal.*

While we understand parental concerns, it would be helpful if parents/carers were aware of the difficulty for an office potentially responding to literally hundreds of calls.

Parents should not telephone the school at these times unless there is an emergency.

We will as always try to do our best to remain open.

It is always the parent's decision as to whether or not it is safe to travel to school in very bad snow. Please travel safely and ensure your child/ren are properly dressed and in safe footwear. Please don't take risks and don't feel rushed to make it on time in bad weather.

Please drive/walk / travel to school safety.