

East Crompton St George's CE Primary School

Snow Policy
Spring 2023



Approved at the LGC Meeting on 23rd March 2023

Next Review Date: Spring 2026

At East Crompton St George's we let our LIGHT shine

Love of Learning. Independence. God in our Hearts. High Achieving. Together as One Family.

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Introduction

East Crompton St George's Primary School is situated in Shaw which is 200m above sea level and is near the Pennines. We can suffer from heavy snowfall which makes reaching the school difficult for pupils and staff. We also have many families that use public transport which can be affected by heavy snow in Oldham.

Our Priority

We make every effort to remain open during conditions of adverse weather, but staff and young people's safety, both on site and when travelling, is our priority.

How school seeks to ensure your child's safety during severe weather

We take all possible steps to ensure that access to the site and the school is safe. The school site is large with several entrance points to the grounds and a 'snow risk assessment' (see Appendix 1) is in place which details the processes that are followed by the Site Manager during snow/icy weather. This risk assessment details which entrances will be cleared and gritted in consultation with the Headteacher.

We monitor weather forecasts closely and take advice from a range of agencies.

1. **School Closure:** In rare circumstances the Headteacher may decide in advance to close the school. Every effort is made to give notice the night before, but if conditions worsen, the decision to close the school may be made in the morning. Notice of a closure will be sent by text to the number we hold for parents and carers. We will also update our website and will inform Oldham Council to put it on their website.
2. **Late opening:** On occasions, the start of the school day may be later than usual to allow the Site Manager and other staff to clear snow fall, allowing safe access and exit from school. This decision may be made on the morning when the Site Manager will carry out a risk assessment and advise the Headteacher of the current state of the site.
3. **Early dismissal.** Once children are in school, their safety is the school's responsibility. Even if the weather is bad, it is often better to wait until the end of the school day, so children can go home as normal. If reports indicate that travel will become more difficult the Headteacher may take the decision to close school early. Parents and carers will be advised by text of a closure. The website will also be updated. Telephone calls will be made to parents of children that have not been collected.

Responsibility of parents

1. Parents must ensure that their son/daughter is properly dressed during bad weather. i.e., they have a coat and sensible shoes, boots or wellingtons bringing a change of footwear into school e.g PE footwear.

2. Have access to their mobile phone or the internet to check for information and avoid ringing school to ask if we are closing where possible. We will inform parents as soon as we have any information.
3. The law requires that children on the roll of a school must attend. However, if conditions in the morning are very severe in the home area, and transport affected, the parent or carer must take the decision about whether to send their child to school. In law this has to be recorded as an 'unauthorised' absence if school remains open.

In Summary

Please be assured that we will not put the safety of any child at risk. We will keep parents updated with any information via text messages and the website.

Appendix 1 – Snow Risk Assessment

Task / Process / Environment / Equipment Being Assessed:	Assessment by: G Semp (Site Manager)	Date:
Extreme Weather Risk Assessment	Approved by:	Date:

Hazard:	Persons affected	Current control measures:	Are they adequate:	Further action:	By who and when:
Snowy, icy, leaves on playground, paths, walkways - walking	Staff, pupils, parents, visitors and contractors	<p>Site Manager to assess accessibility and take necessary measures to make safe e.g, gritting, move snow. Inform Headteacher as soon as possible on site conditions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To make a safe path from driveway pedestrian gate to front entrance. 2) To make tracks on driveway for emergency vehicle access only. 3) To clear path to BASC entrance. 4) To clear path to doors 10,11,12. 5) To clear path to Grains Rd. 6) To clear path to rec/year 1. <p>Items 1-6 being subject to conditions and safe practice. In heavy snow only 1 & 2 may be possible initially.</p> <p>Parents as always are responsible for pupils being safe prior to start of school.</p> <p>Children to remain in school during playtimes. Risk assessments ongoing by the staff responsible for playtime throughout the day.</p> <p>Everyone to remain on clear areas when accessing or leaving the building.</p>	Yes		
Use of play equipment when covered in snow, ice.	Pupils	<p>Parents to be made aware of their responsibility to ensure children remain safe in playground prior to start of school day.</p> <p>Children advised on how to stay safe in assembly/leaving the building</p> <p>Children will remain indoors at playtime.</p>	Yes		

<p>Hidden dangers due to snow eg broken glass, syringes</p>	<p>Staff, pupils, parents, visitors, site users</p>	<p>Parents to encourage children to be sensible on snowy/Icy patches prior to school day.</p> <p>Children to be advised on how to stay safe in assembly/prior to play/leaving the building.</p> <p>Indoor play or cordon off particularly snowy patches.</p>	<p>Yes</p>		
<p>Wet Floor – e.g. water from snowy boots etc</p>	<p>Staff, Pupils, parents, Visitors, Contractors</p>	<p>All staff, pupils, visitors and contractors to be encouraged to wipe boots/shoes.</p> <p>Site Manager/ staff to be made aware of very wet floor/corridors in order to mop up excess.</p> <p>Make clear, where possible, where floor is particularly wet /slippery using yellow hazard board</p>	<p>Yes</p>		

<p>Review Date:</p>	<p>As necessary</p>
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