

Adverse Weather Protocol

Background

Thomas Telford School is different from most schools insofar as the catchment area for the school is Telford, Wolverhampton and South Staffordshire. It covers a very wide area and provides coach transport for about 600 of the 1600 students that attend the School. All of these issues have to be carefully considered when decisions are made to close the school and this is particularly difficult when adverse weather arrives after the school day has started.

During anticipated adverse weather periods there will be daily announcements using the traffic light system that is already in place on the website.

If the weather were to deteriorate suddenly after the school day has started, then updates about what action the school is taking to secure the safety of students will be made every 30 minutes via the website.

It should be remembered that when students are in school they are safe, warm and can always be fed. The school would never ask a student to leave the premises in adverse weather conditions even if it meant keeping the school open overnight.

These arrangements also mean that parents do not have to panic and put themselves at risk by travelling in adverse weather conditions. In Telford our experience is that the roads clear quickly after the initial rush when local companies release employees early and then it is much safer to travel.

Key Points for parents to consider:

- It is for parents and not the school to decide whether or not their child should attend school during adverse weather conditions
- It is for the school to ensure that students are safe once they arrive even if this means they remain in the school building long after normal closing time
- Only use the school website to obtain accurate information it will be updated every 30 minutes. Do not rely on hearsay
- If the weather deteriorates suddenly we will provide advice on the website regarding revised arrangements for coach travel to Wolverhampton, early or late release of local students and students using their cars
- Do not telephone the school
- Do not telephone or text students who will be in lessons, it causes a major disturbance
- Although it is against school rules for students to telephone or text parents during the normal school day without permission, it is possible that some students may breach these rules. If this happens, work with us and verify their opinion by visiting the school website and then take sensible action
- If you have to come to the school to collect your child, please park outside the school grounds
- Cars will not be allowed on the premises as this prevents the school from clearing the snow and making the perimeter road around the school safe
- There will be a senior staff member at the school gates wearing a high visibility jacket to communicate with the school reception on your behalf and you should meet your child at the school gates
- This can take up to 10 minutes when there is high demand
- Treat staff with respect and not in an aggressive manner; they are helpful and cooperative

Mr Ian Rawlings
Headmaster