



# West Rainton Primary School

## Snow and bad weather policy

“Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents.”  
Department for Education

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service. As a fundamental principle every effort must be made to keep schools open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. However schools may close due to ‘unavoidable’ circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite.

We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn. West Rainton Primary School will make every effort to prepare for severe snow/ice this winter by [insert preparations e.g. gritting pathways, clearing access points etc].

How will we let you know if the school is closed?

However, if we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, our head teacher may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made we will notify parents via the Durham Closures website. To determine whether West Rainton Primary School is open or closed please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schoolclosures). Search for the school in the search box. The Durham Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Durham are open or closed, such as nurseries, children’s centres and libraries.

We also recommend parents sign up for SMS/Email alerts with the school. This service will send an SMS or email alert to let parents know if [name of school] is closed (This sentence should be deleted if the SMS Service is not available at your school). Parents can also listen to local radio stations to hear if the school has closed.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit [www.durham.gov.uk/winterroads](http://www.durham.gov.uk/winterroads) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Durham so you can plan your journey.
- Please approach the school from the main gate to Year 6 classroom.
- Please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be transported.
- Don’t forget suitable warm clothing – gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc. or even a change of clothing.
- If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent and inform the school. This will allow staff to leave earlier for their safety if weather dictates.

Many thanks for your support in helping West Rainton Primary School remain open during periods of severe snow/ice.