



## SNOW AND BAD WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow or any other adverse weather conditions, the prime concern of the school will always be the safety of the students and staff. The decision whether or not to send a student to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parents/carers, taking into account factors such as local road conditions, transport and the availability of childcare.

The school aims to remain open in the event of snow, we feel this is important for our students. However, there are certain factors which may lead to the school closing and the decision to close will be based on a site-specific risk assessment taking into account a range of factors including:

- The severity of the weather conditions is on such a major scale that it is unlikely that many people will physically be able to make it into school
- School's ability to provide a lunch
- The condition of local roads and pathways
- School grounds, heating, lighting and water
- External agency advice e.g. police, local government, motoring organisations, local authority transport provider are advising against school travel in our region.

If the school is to be closed, we will declare this a 'Snow Day' and will post this on the website as soon as possible, normally by 7.00am on the day as well as notifying parents of this by Synergy broadcast, Facebook, twitter, local radio and Lancashire County Council website.

***When checking the website regularly, remember to Ctrl + F5 to refresh for updates.***

Where no updates have been provided parents/carers should assume that the school is open as normal. Given the event of bad weather the school advises all students, staff and visitors to wrap up warmly and **wear sensible footwear.**

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Will school close if there has been heavy snowfall overnight?**

It is our priority to remain open at all times, however, if the decision has been made to close the school this will normally be done by 7:00am and communicated to parents/carers and staff (Please see communication methods)

### **Will school close if there is heavy snowfall during the day?**

Again, it is our priority to remain open at all times. If the decision has been made to close during the school day this will be relayed to parents/carers by the communication methods below. Anyone struggling to collect their child(ren) at the allocated pick-up time given in the broadcast, due to poor road conditions, transport arrangements, etc. should contact the school to inform us of the likely collection time. **Communication Methods**

- School website <http://lathomhighschool.org>  
(Remember to Ctrl + F5 to refresh for updates.)
- X (Twitter) @LathomHS
- Facebook
- Synergy broadcast
- Local Authority: [http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/school\\_closures/index.asp](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/education/school_closures/index.asp)

#### **To travel to school or not?**

Parents have to decide whether it is safe for students to make the journey into school.

#### **Does it matter what time we arrive at school?**

We will expect students, where possible, to arrive on time; it is important that students who arrive late sign in at the front office.

#### **What will happen if heavy snow arrives during the school day?**

We may declare a 'Snow Day' resulting in the school closing early. Please see communication methods above.

#### **Will there be after school activities?**

There will be no afterschool extra-curricular activities on a 'Snow Day'.

### **CAR PARK AND ACCESS TO SCHOOL**

We will do our utmost to clear and maintain a pathway into the main entrance of school in addition to clearing a single bus bay however, as the weather can deteriorate quickly at times, this may not always be possible immediately.

In icy conditions the main carpark and the link road from Glenburn Road down the slip road to both high schools will be gritted by a contracted company. Please exercise caution when driving and accessing school during icy conditions, as the area surrounding the building can be hazardous as ice tends to remain on the paths and roads for long periods.

For people who normally use the car park, please be aware the area can be difficult to negotiate during snow/ icy conditions as the section that slopes is deceptively steep!

Please keep to the designated pathways wherever possible, and be aware of the potential for unidentified icy patches.

If you have any concerns or wish to discuss the plans we have in place, please contact school.

### **SNOW DAY – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR STAFF**

- If the school is to be closed, we will declare this a 'Snow Day' and send you a Synergy broadcast as soon as possible and normally by 7.00am on the day.
- SLT Line Managers will communicate with departments to agree appropriate work for students.

#### **To travel to school or not?**

- If school is open, staff must decide whether it is safe to make the journey into school based on their local weather conditions. Absence from school is reported using the existing procedure which can be found in 'Life at Lathom'.

## **PROTOCOL**

Facilities Team assesses the conditions around the school premises including the access roads. Depending on the severity of the weather conditions, school will be assessed by Mr Riley who will be on-site, and remotely via CCTV by Mr McMaster and Mrs Jepson.