

BROWNHILLS SCHOOL



SEVERE WEATHER POLICY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS



Brownhills School is different to most schools insofar as the catchment area for the School covers a wide area of Walsall and includes parts of Staffordshire. This is a very wide area and we provide coach transport for about 250 of the 700 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 when the School day has commenced.

During anticipated adverse weather periods there will be daily announcements using the website and twitter feed that are already in place. If necessary, we will use the Truancy Call text service.

If the weather were to suddenly deteriorate after School has started, updates about what action the School is taking to secure the safety of the students will be made every 30 minutes on the website and the twitter feed.

It should be remembered that when students are in the School they are safe, warm and can always be fed. The School would never ask students 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 Walsall, 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:

- Brownhills School is not responsible for any injuries which happen on the school site to any individual who ignores the safety guidance from staff
- It is for parents to decide whether or not their child should attend the School during adverse weather conditions and not the School.
- 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, early or late release of students using public transport.
- Please do not telephone the School.
- Please do not telephone or text the students, who will be in lesson, as it causes a major disturbance.
- Although it is against School rules for students to telephone and 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 as the adverse weather will make the playground areas unsafe.
- Cars will not be allowed on the premises in adverse weather conditions as this prevents the School from clearing snow and making the road around the School safe.

- There will be senior members of staff 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 a high demand.
- Treat staff with respect and not in an aggressive manner, they will be helpful and co- operative to you.