Winterbourne Earls CE Primary School
Severe Weather Policy

Date Published: September 2026
Next of next review: September 2027

In the event of severe weather preventing staff from reaching school on time, or for any other reason, it may be necessary to delay the normal school opening time. In extreme conditions the school may have to remain closed all day. Such action may be required to avoid compromising pupil safety whilst on the premises, or to minimise the need for staff to have to travel in perilous conditions.

Normal opening
The school will open as normal provided that either the Headteacher or Deputy and a minimum complement of staff can be on the premises by 0830hrs and there are no other problems.

Late opening
The decision may be made to open at 1000hrs if the majority of staff can be on the premises by this time, and paths can be cleared and made safe. Fox Cubs Breakfast Club will be closed. Fox Cubs managers will notify parents of decisions regarding both Breakfast and After School Club.

Complete closure
The school will be closed all day if it appears likely that the majority of staff will be unable to get to school by 1000hrs or if any other problems cannot be resolved by that time. Fox Cubs Breakfast and After School clubs will be closed.

Actions
Having gathered all the relevant facts and taken any necessary advice, the Headteacher shall:

- take the decision to open/late open or close the school by 0730hrs
- notify Wiltshire Council of our decision to close school at schoolorganisation@wiltshire.gov.uk
- consult the Chair of Governors
- inform School Bus Company
- inform Catering Staff
- inform Sarah Hyde to communicate closure via the Website/Arbor

For information regarding possible closure parents should:

- Access the school website www.winterbourneearls.org
- Check Arbor for email or SMS communications
- Check class Seesaw pages

Parents are asked not to access the website until 0730hrs. Experience has taught us that if lots of parents try to access the site at once before this time we may be unable to log on with the necessary details.

"As each one does their part, we grow in love"
Ephesians 4 vs.16

Early closing
If the weather deteriorates during the day, parents will be informed that they may collect their children early. The information will be given out as above. No child will be sent home without adult supervision.

Informing parents of procedures
A letter will go out in November/ December and again in January informing parents of the severe weather procedures.