



**Churchfields**  
The Village School

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Atworth ∞ Monkton Farleigh

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# ADVERSE WEATHER (INCLUDING SNOW & ICE) POLICY

Updated September 2022

[Job 37:6](#)

For to the snow he says, 'Fall on the earth,' likewise to the downpour, his mighty downpour'.

Adverse Weather can affect the safety of the school community and the operation of the school. Although we are used to winter snow and ice disruptions in the UK, other adverse weather can also pose a danger, such as storms, floods and high temperatures.

We appreciate school closures can be disruptive to parents/carers so a decision to do so in the event of adverse weather conditions is not taken lightly. However the health and safety of the school community must always take precedence.

### **Gritting Procedures**

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure their own safety. This is particularly important when there is a chance that an area may be slippery such as during periods of cold weather and/or snow when there is a danger of ice. Parents/carers are asked to recognise that the school has no specific or additional staff to keep paths clear, but the available teaching and non-teaching staff will do their best to keep pathways etc. clear, as explained below.

The following procedure will be followed if it is apparent that pedestrian paths on site are slippery due to ice/snow cover or heavy frost.

**The following areas will be the first priority for gritting and being kept clear:**

#### **Atworth base**

1. Path to main playground
2. Path to mobile classrooms
3. Ramp to back of main building

#### **Monkton Farleigh base**

1. Path to front entrance
2. Path to classroom doors

As resources become available, other areas will be gritted/salted and cleared as required.

It may be possible that, despite efforts to clear these areas, they become slippery e.g. if snow falls faster than it can be cleared or early in the morning before clearance has been completed or during the day when staff are educating pupils. It is therefore essential that extreme care is taken when coming on to the school premises in conditions of ice, snow or heavy frost.

Please note that paths outside the school are beyond the school's area of responsibility or jurisdiction.

Children should not bring cycles or scooters to school during snow or icy weather, to reduce the risk to themselves and others.

If at all possible, parents/carers are asked not to bring vehicles onto Bradford Road or Monkton Farleigh as the roads can be treacherous in snowy conditions.

Before and after school opening hours, parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their children behave safely, in a way considerate to others. This includes ensuring they do not throw snow at others or slide around on the playground.

Adults are asked to inform the school immediately if they feel any areas of the school are unsafe.

### **Breaktimes/Lunchtimes**

These arrangements may be changed during adverse weather. Parents/carers must ensure their children have boots and warm outdoor clothes in school in order that they may enjoy playing on the field if conditions allow.

Children may be allowed to play on the school field, if considered by staff to be safe, but will be informed that they will be prevented from:

- Sliding on flat or inclined areas
- Throwing snowballs at others
- Use the climbing frame, unless a member of staff considers it safe
- Run on paved or tarmacked areas

It is not practical to grit large areas or clear grounds. Therefore, if it is determined by staff that playground areas are unsafe due to conditions, they will not be used during the day with pupils remaining safely inside.

### **Collection**

If the playground areas or the paths to them are considered unsafe, adults collecting children will be directed accordingly as to the best method of maintaining everyone's safety.

### **School Closure**

A decision will be made by the Headteacher as to whether the school opens during adverse weather conditions. We will always keep the school open if it is safe to do so. Sometimes it may not be safe due to access, heating, cooling, transport, water, catering or staffing issues specific to our school or individual base. If we are fully or partially closed as a result of adverse weather, we will announce this on [BBC Radio Wiltshire](#) and [Heart Wiltshire Radio](#) as well as through our parent contact email system. In the past, one or more of these systems has become overwhelmed with the amount of schools trying to access their services but please rest assured we will do our best to communicate with you as early in the day as possible. Please note that we will not unnecessarily clog these systems by confirming a 'business as usual' scenario, and that the school office telephone will not be manned at this time.

If weather conditions worsen throughout the day, the Headteacher may decide to close the school early in order to ensure that all children and staff are able to get home safely. If this is the case, we will contact you via email or telephone as soon as possible to give you time to arrange for early collection of your children. To support us communicating with you, please ensure you update any changes of contact details with the [school office](#) as they occur.

The safety of the school community remains the highest priority of the school at all times.