



Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

RE: SEVERE SNOW/ICE PLAN

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. When schools are affected, it can be difficult to maintain an education service.

The advice to schools from the Department for Education is that “schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their students and parents.” As a fundamental principle, therefore, every effort will be made to keep our school open, even if only a limited number of students can attend. In this instance, delivery of a ‘normal’ curriculum may not be possible and students would be taught via Teams.

It is for parents/carers to decide whether it is safe for their child to travel to school, regardless of whether the school is open or closed. When a student arrives in school, we expect that, unless early closure is deemed essential, they will remain in school until the end of the day. Students should not contact parents/carers and ask to be collected from school during the day unless notified to do so by the school. Any decision to close early will be communicated via email and the school website.

The open nature of our site, with many steps and slopes, can make closure the only option if it is felt that students and staff would not be safe gaining access to the site or moving between buildings. In addition, many staff travel in from some distance away, and being unable to provide adequate staff/student ratios may also be a reason for closure.

Full details of our closure procedures can be found on the school website, using the following link [School Closure Information - Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School](#), we ask that you make yourself familiar with these, particularly the section outlining if a closure was required during the school day.

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

If we do experience severe snow/ice resulting in hazardous conditions, we may have to take the decision to close the school. Once this decision has been made, we will notify parents via both the Kent Closures website, the school website and our social media. To determine whether our school is closed please visit www.kentclosures.co.uk and search for the school in the search box. The Kent Closures website can also be used to find out if other services in Kent are open or closed, such as nurseries, children's centres and libraries.

What can you do to help?

- Please visit www.kent.gov.uk/winter for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Kent so you can plan your journey. Please note you can sign up on www.kentclosures.co.uk for email alerts.
- On days of heavy snow/ice, please can you provide a packed lunch from home in case school meals cannot be provided.
- Normal uniform rules will be relaxed in the event of snow/ice. Sensible footwear for travelling to/from school, and around the school site, is highly recommended; please also bring dry shoes to wear inside.
- It is important that students have a backup plan should there be daytime snowfall and they are unable to catch their bus home. This may be that they will be collected by car, or that they will go home with a family member, another parent or a friend who lives locally. If a student is to be collected by car, they should always wait in school until the car arrives.

Hopefully the steps outlined in this letter will not be required, and school will continue to operate as normal throughout the winter season.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Pollard
Headteacher