

GUIDANCE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/CARERS IN CASE OF SNOW



In cases of snow and bad weather Hampstead School **will always endeavour to remain open**. All students are expected get to school as long as it is safe to do so. As a last resort, and **only** if there are **severe** public transport difficulties, will we close the school. Any closure will be posted on the school website (www.hampsteadschool.org.uk) by 0800 at the very latest. We will also send a text to parents so please ensure that we have your up-to-date mobile number.

If your child has already left home before a closure notice, then advise them to return to your own home. They should only go to another student's house if they have agreed this with you in advance or have contacted you. Obviously, please remind them that they must never accept a lift from a stranger.

If the weather deteriorates seriously during the day:

Understandably, many parents will wish to ring the school if snow starts falling heavily during the day. This can lead to all our outside lines being engaged by other parents calling for the same reason, leading to jammed lines and delay. We will ensure that our website is updated throughout the day, so please continue to refresh your browser.

- Decisions about closing the school or sending students home early are a last resort. We need to gather reliable information before making a judgement. We check weather reports, get advice from the bus and train companies and Local Authority and will close early **only in extreme cases**. The decision to close the school will be made by the Head.
- We will tell students if we know of any changes to public transport so that they can decide the best way to get home.
- Students who can walk home will be sent, preferably, in groups or in the company of other students who live near to each other.
- School will be kept open with staff on hand until the last student has left.
- It is **not** possible for students to be given lifts by staff.

How parents can help:

- **Insist that your child attends school as normal unless we are closed!**
- Check the school's website and make sure the school has up-to-date emergency contact and mobile numbers and e-mail addresses.
- Plan ahead with your child what to do in a bad weather emergency.
- Only call the school if you really have to - calls in prevent calls out!