



Wyvern College



St Edmund's Girls' School

**Email: 31.1.19**

### **School Closure Information**

Dear Parents and Carers

Just as you probably have been, I've kept a close eye on the weather forecast over the last 24hrs and it would seem that we are likely to have some snow, perhaps even heavy snow, this evening. It is obviously difficult at the moment to predict what the conditions will be like in the morning, but I wanted to write to clarify our approach to deciding whether closing the schools is necessary.

Closing a school is always something we try to avoid as it causes disruption to learning and is also an inconvenience to you. However, any decision about closure will be grounded in safeguarding your children.

With the safety of both staff and students to consider, the process of weighing up the risks begins long before the school day is due to begin, and involves an arduous procedure of safeguarding checks. Early in the morning, from 5.30am, I liaise with the site teams who live within easy reach of the schools and, together, we conduct a risk assessment focused on the following questions:

- Is the site safe?
- What is the risk of a student having an accident?
- Do all areas of the school have adequate heating?
- Is there water available?
- Has the food delivery arrived to provide children with their lunch?
- What is the state of local roads? Would travelling to school by foot or car be dangerous?
- Are the buses running? (A huge number of our students travel to school by bus)

There's also the teaching staff to consider; we may need to close due to not having adequate staffing ratios, which is a safeguarding issue. A significant number of staff live some distance away, and many have young children whose primary schools may close, leaving them without childcare.

As well as the site team, I speak with staff, other local head teachers and the Executive Headteacher of our trust (Magna Learning Partnership) before making a final decision. It is a difficult decision to make but will only ever be taken as a last resort.

Headteacher: Nicola Bull  
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We will communicate any closure decision to you by 7.15am at the latest.

For information regarding possible closure parents can:

- Check mobiles for text messages
- Check our twitter feed @wyvernstedmunds
- Access the school websites: [www.st-edmunds.eu](http://www.st-edmunds.eu) or [www.wyverncollege.wilts.sch.uk](http://www.wyverncollege.wilts.sch.uk)
- Listen to the regular updates on Spire FM and check their website: [www.spirefm.co.uk](http://www.spirefm.co.uk)

If there is no information on any of the above by 7.15am, parents should assume that the school is open as usual.

If a "snow day" is necessary the school will be completely closed to all students so please ensure they do not leave home until you know for sure that school will be open (i.e. after 7.15am).

If a 'snow day' is called, teachers will provide work (as we are obliged to) on Show My Homework but there is **NO expectation that this is completed**. We would much rather your children wrap up warm and get out in the snow to have some fun!

In the event of a school closure because of snow, we will run two competitions:

- 1) best snow scene photo
- 2) best snow man/animal

Please ask your child to tweet their photo, copying in @wyvernstedmunds so we can judge and award prizes. They will need to use the hashtag #wvstedssnowday

Here's hoping that the forecast is incorrect!

Kind Regards

Nicola Bull  
Headteacher

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