

## Emergency Closure Information

*"Schools should, wherever possible, stay open in severe weather. They play a key role in their communities and by staying open help both their pupils and parents."* - Department for Education

Every winter brings the possibility of snow and ice. Extreme bad weather can cause widespread and prolonged disruption. Schools are often affected and it can be difficult to maintain an education service. As a fundamental principle every effort is made to keep the school open, even if only limited numbers of pupils can attend. There is a legal requirement to keep schools open for children to attend for 190 days per year (380 sessions). However, schools may close due to 'unavoidable' circumstances. Those circumstances being that it is no longer safe for staff or pupils to be onsite. We recognise that it is important that our school remains open so parents are able to work and pupils can continue to learn.

The government has stressed the importance of schools remaining open, wherever possible, as closures have a knock on effect on parents/carers who are key workers in other areas of the public sector, e.g. Health Services, thus undermining crucial service delivery. The overriding principle is, therefore, for the school to remain open to the maximum degree possible, as is consistent with health and safety requirements.

*'The decision whether to close must, however, be for headteachers as they know their schools and surrounding areas. They should use common sense in assessing the risks and keep their schools open.'* - Department of Education

How will parents know if St Laurence Church Infant School is closed?

The school will send parents an SMS if the school is closed.

The school will log the closure on: <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/schoolclosures>

You can hear about school closures by listening to BBC Radio West Midlands or Free Radio.

The school website will advise parents if the school is closed.

What can you do to help?

Please visit [www.birmingham.gov.uk](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk) for more information about gritting routes and travel issues around Birmingham so you can plan your journey safely.

Don't forget suitable warm clothing - gloves, hats, scarves, wellies etc.

If you are a working parent or feel you may have a problem with a later drop off or sudden earlier pick up, please could you put a back-up plan in place with another family member or parent.

If the school is forced to close for other reasons the same notification procedures will operate.

