

RYDES HILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

P20 (Isi 11) – SNOW POLICY



RYDES HILL

PREPARATORY SCHOOL & NURSERY

MISSION STATEMENT

- ❖ Rydes Hill Preparatory School and Nursery is a Catholic school where children learn how to live in loving relationship with God and each other.
- ❖ Christian virtues of love and justice, faith and courage, hope and perseverance are fostered.
- ❖ Pupils and staff comprise individuals of different faiths and beliefs but the Rydes Hill community aspires to unity within the life of the school based on shared moral values.
- ❖ The importance placed on the development of individual talents is at the heart of what school stands for and all are encouraged and challenged to be the best they can be.

Written By :	Alison Packman – Compliance Officer	2 nd January 2020
Reviewed By :	Sarah Norville - Headmistress	14 th April 2023
Approved By :	SLT	25 th April 2023
Governor Review By :	Not required	

Contents

Revision History.....	3
Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions.....	3
Aim / Objective / Statement of Intent	4
Decision basis	4
Frequently Asked Questions :	5

Revision History

Revision	Paragraph Number	Revision
January 2019		New Document
January 2020	Whole Document Paragraph 3 Paragraph 4 Paragraph 7	Change to review cycle - Policy will be reviewed every 3 years rather than annually. Add “and in our all year round Nursery” 3 rd bullet point – amended to reflect range of meals provided to AYR nursery Rewritten
April 2023	FAQs	Information about ‘Showbie’ added

Abbreviations, Acronyms and Definitions

Abbreviation / Acronym	Definition
AYR Nursery	All Year Round Nursery
SLT	Senior Leadership Team

Aim / Objective / Statement of Intent

This policy applies to the whole school including EYFS.

1. The objective of this policy is to provide information to pupils, parents and staff on the School's plan in the event of snow.
2. In the event of disruption caused by heavy snow, the prime concern of the school will always be the safety of pupils and staff. The decision whether or not to send a pupil to school, however, must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of childcare.
3. **The school aims to remain open in the event of snow.** We feel this is important for those parents who are relying on us to care for their children in term time and in our all year round Nursery. In the event of heavy snowfall, we cannot guarantee a normal school day.

Decision basis

4. There are certain factors which may lead to the school closing. These include whether:
 - There are enough members of staff to be able to provide safe and satisfactory care;
 - The severity of the weather conditions is on such a major scale that it is unlikely that many people will be able, physically, to make it into school;
 - The school can provide food for the children; in some circumstances the school may ask parents to supply their children with a packed lunch, or breakfast/lunch/supper for AYR Nursery. Parents are reminded that this must not contain nuts.
 - The school grounds are sufficiently safe for children, parents and staff;
 - The school has sufficient heating;
 - The school has lighting and hot water across the site;
 - External agencies, e.g. police, local government, motoring organisations, etc., are advising against school travel in our region.
5. If, for the reasons outlined above the safest or most expedient judgement is to close the school, **a 'Closure Day' will be declared and we will notify you by Parent Mail as soon as possible and normally by 7:00am on the day.**
6. No children should be sent to school on Closure Days.
7. When the school is open, we will remain open until the end of the normal school day. For children in our All Year Round Nursery which closes at 6pm, we will remain open as late as possible but we may have to make allowances for our own staff, who live a considerable distance away from School, to get home. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

Frequently Asked Questions :

Q. Will parents be contacted in the event of snow?

A. We will send a **ParentMail** message to all parents who have provided an email address to us. This will be sent as soon as possible and normally by 7:00 am on the day. This document (P20 (ISI 11) – Snow Policy) can be found on the school website and gives clear instructions for snow days.

Q. Do I need to contact the School?

A. There is no need to contact the school regarding your decision to travel or not; this will help avoid blocked phone lines. However, if the school remains open but you have decided not to send your child to school, please use ParentMail to notify us of a pupil absence in the normal way.

Q. Does it matter what time we arrive at School?

A. No. We will expect children to arrive throughout the morning. However, it is important that all children are registered as being on site, therefore please accompany your child to the front office and sign them in if you arrive after the normal time.

Q. Should I travel to School or not?

A. Parents and Staff have to decide whether it is safe and desirable for them to make the journey into School. If the School is open, and once we have established which pupils we have on site, we will construct a timetable for the day which will include, where possible, relevant academic work and a range of activities aimed at making the day as productive as possible.

Q. Will lessons continue as normal?

A. Depending on which staff are able to get into School, lessons may run without disruption. Some year groups may be taught together and a slightly different curriculum followed. Staff may be deployed to cover different roles in School based on availability.

Q. Will work be available on the website?

A. A 'Snow Day' is a wonderful outdoor learning opportunity for children. Some teachers may wish to set work on Showbie for their classes.

Q. Should children wear uniform to School on snowy days?

A. If the School is open, but there is some snowfall, a decision will be made about whether children should wear uniform or warm 'own clothes'. This decision will be based on what is warmest for the children and whether or not they are likely to be playing outside.

Parents will be sent a message via ParentMail if there are any modifications to normal School uniform.

Q. What will happen if heavy snow arrives during the School day?

A. On rare occasions we may decide to close the school early. This would be communicated to parents via **ParentMail**. If parents wish to collect their child(ren) from school before this time, they are welcome to do so, but must ensure they are signed out. It would be helpful if parents would telephone the school to advise us so that children can be brought to the front office ready for collection.

Q. Where do I go to collect my child?

A. If you are collecting your child(ren) early then please report to the School Office. Otherwise, children should be collected from the Friends Hall.

Q. Will there be after school activities?

A. If the School is closed early there will be no 'Stay & Play', after school activities, Prep, or 'All Year Round' Nursery provision. 'All Year Round' Nursery provision will finish at 3:30 pm or earlier if the School is closed earlier. This will be communicated via **ParentMail**. As always, we will look after the children until parents are able to get here, but parents must remember that members of staff will also be anxious to get home safely if the weather and road conditions are poor.