



School Policy in the Event of Bad Weather 2024

Guidelines for Parents

We hope our students have opportunities to enjoy winter weather over the next few months, but when the weather is severe, we want you to know how we will make decisions about closing school. The safety of our students is our top priority, and we always follow a set of guidelines to make decisions about whether school will be open or closed.

When is school closed due to the weather?

When the Principal and senior leadership feel that there is a genuine risk to safety. The senior team try to make a decision that is the best for all students and families. We realise, at times, our decisions may not fit with your individual circumstances. Therefore, we encourage and strongly support you in making the decision that is best for your family.

Here is what you should know about winter weather decisions

Wherever possible we try to keep Britannica International School open

When schools close, many families have issues with childcare, and we lose valuable learning time with the children. As a result, we try to keep Britannica open if it's safe to do so.

How do we decide whether or not to close due to snow, ice and/or extreme cold?

The school monitors weather conditions and consults with meteorologists, the local council, emergency services and transportation providers.

In times of severe weather conditions, we will also consider the safety of the children in regard to travelling to and from school, pre-school, break, lunch and after school routines and activities.

We take into account precipitation, wind chill, road safety conditions and other weather conditions in making any closure or indoor/outdoor decision.

How can you find out if Britannica International School is closed?

To help our families plan for any school closures, we make every effort to make a decision on closing **by 7am**, where possible, to allow time for information to be spread throughout our community of students, parents and staff.

The school will send an **email via ISAMS**

You can check our website for an announcement of closure. **ClassList** may also be used to support the quick spread of any news amongst our parent community

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL AS STAFF WILL BE BUSY MANAGING THE SITUATION/CLOSURE.

When Britannica International School is closed for the day, it also means that all activities scheduled in school buildings for that day are cancelled.

Why aren't students dismissed early on days when the weather is bad?

Generally, once the school day has started, Britannica will not dismiss early to avoid complications with transportation and childcare arrangements. However, if your schedule allows and if you feel your child will be safer at home, on days of adverse weather conditions, you can pick your child up before the end of the school day.

Will lessons take place when there is a school closure due to bad weather?

The expectation is that students will be taught online when there is a closure due to bad weather. Periods 2 to 5 from the normal school timetable will be taught online using Teams and Canvas. Lessons will be 40 minutes long.

What happens if there is extreme weather at drop-off or pick-up time for Primary?

When it is raining at drop-off time in the mornings, children will come straight into class and go directly to their classrooms. They do not need to wait on the playground to be collected by a teacher. It is likely that there will be a member of staff directing children to enter the building directly.

If there is extreme weather, such as torrential rain, at pick-up time, the following procedures will be followed:

- Children will sit in class rows in the school gym.
- Parents will file in through the Y6 Europa cloakroom area, to the right of the music room, and will be reunited with children.
- Parents will exit through the 'moon zone' doors nearest to the canteen and make their way to the car park exit from there.
- Club children will be met by ECA providers in the gym.
- Members of PLT will be at hand to direct parents from the playground and help to retrieve children from their lines.

For light rain, pick up will be from the playground as normal. Please ensure your children are always appropriately dressed for the weather conditions.

When making the decision to use the tent or go outside for break or registration in the morning, Britannica considers many factors. Because of the combination of factors to be considered, there is not a definitive rule regarding pre-school, break, lunch and after-school routines and activities.