



## Snow Day Policy and Procedure

For the safety of our families and staff, Sevenoaks Academy will be open by discretion on snow days. We are part of the central zone and when buses are cancelled in that area, we will not be running classes as scheduled.

This policy is important so that all families have a clear and consistent understanding of what to expect during the winter season. It is a policy that has evolved over the years with the school, but the key element of safety as the cornerstone remains paramount.

Several factors are considered on days where severe weather is, or could be, an issue. In the event of severe winter weather, the school will carefully monitor bus cancellations, local conditions, including; road safety, weather advisories, and guidance from local authorities, before deciding on the safest operation of the school. School bus cancellations in the central zone will always be a primary and reliable guide for us of a snow day occurrence. The Simcoe County Student Transportation Consortium has more means at their disposal to monitor the road conditions around the county. As we have many families and staff that travel distances across Simcoe County, we know that this is an important tool for us.

We do not transport children to and from school, but during the winter season we operate our bus on several days during the week for school activities. This is also a safety factor that is considered on snow days, and all external activities will be cancelled. If we have an off-site activity in another school zone that has bus cancellations and we are still operating as usual, we will cancel and postpone, if possible, that activity.

In most cases, the school will remain open during inclement weather, though we may operate with limited staff due to current or forecast travel conditions. When this occurs, we will focus on providing a safe, supervised environment for students who still attend. Instructional activities are modified, but students will always be provided with pertinent lessons and learning. Students who choose to stay at home might be assigned work or asked to continue to work on any current assignments.

If the school is open on a snow day and the weather deteriorates significantly enough that it is going to impact pick up from school and the drive home, families will be notified to come and collect their child/ren and the school will close. If the weather is deemed to be too dangerous for any of our staff or families to drive to school on the morning of a snow day, the school will be closed and families will be notified.

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority. Attendance during severe weather is at the discretion of parents and guardians, and it is always a family decision whether it is safe for them to travel.