

23 January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Winter Weather

We are now in the season where we can experience severe weather that can cause disruption to the opening of the Academy. **Our aim is to keep the Academy open at all times**, however, occasionally we may need to close or modify the school day due to severe weather. If we have to do this a message will be placed on our website, a message will be sent via **Twitter@stmarks_academy** and a text message will also be sent. Merton Council will also be informed of any changes to the Academy day and information will be available on their OpenCheck website too. We will aim to make any decision about school closure as early as possible in the day. Please ensure that we have up-to-date contact details for you.

As such, I thought it would be appropriate to share with you the factors I have to consider when a decision is made. In the first instance I have to decide whether or not it is appropriate to close the school during 'severe' weather based on the 'inability of staff or students to attend school'. Many students walk to school, however, some rely on public transport, including buses and trains. I therefore keep updated on the decisions made by Network Rail and other transport providers.

When I make a decision to close the school it is also based on the 'ability of staff to supervise students'. As staff travel from a variety of areas the weather conditions where they live may be very different to the conditions in Mitcham. I also have to consider the current staff availability, i.e. staff who have managed to make the journey to school. On that day we ask staff to notify us by 7am if they are unable to attend work.

Myself and the leadership team always consider the above factors and avoid closing the school, however, if the need arises I would like you to know that we take all factors into consideration. I appreciate your support and understanding my senior team and myself continue to have from parents and carers of students at St Mark's Academy.

I do hope this clarifies any queries or questions you may have in relation to school closure. If not, please do not hesitate to contact me via my PA Carol Low at CLow@stmarksacademy.org.uk

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Peterkin".

Lisa Peterkin

Principal

Principal Lisa Peterkin