



# Snow Policy

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Tree of Life Educational and Therapeutic Ltd  
(SEMH Alternative Provision with Therapy-Led Practice)

Review date- 19/9/2025

## 1. Policy Statement

Tree of Life Educational and Therapeutic Ltd is committed to maintaining the safety and wellbeing of pupils, staff, therapists, and visitors during adverse weather conditions, including snow and icy conditions. Our priority is to ensure that:

- The site remains safe for access and therapeutic work.
- Disruption to learning and therapies is minimised where possible.
- Clear communication is provided to all stakeholders.
- Decisions are made in the best interests of pupils' safety, especially given their SEMH needs.

## 2. Aims of this Policy

- To safeguard all members of our community during adverse weather.
- To outline procedures for opening, partial opening, or closure during snow.
- To ensure continuity of therapy and learning wherever possible.
- To provide reassurance and clear communication to pupils and families, reducing anxiety.

## 3. Responsibilities

Directors/Leadership Team

- Assess weather conditions, site safety, and staffing availability.
- Decide whether the provision will open, close, or operate a reduced timetable.
- Communicate decisions promptly to staff, parents/carers, and transport providers.

#### Site Management

- Ensure pathways, entrances, and therapy spaces are gritted and cleared where possible.
- Assess ongoing site safety throughout the day.

#### Staff and Therapists

- Make reasonable efforts to attend if safe to do so.
- Notify leadership if travel is unsafe or impossible.
- Provide remote/alternative therapeutic or educational support if the site is closed.

#### Parents/Carers

- Assess the safety of travel for their child.
- Ensure up-to-date contact details are provided for communication.

### **4. Decision-Making Process**

- Decisions about opening or closure will usually be made by 7:00am based on local weather forecasts, site assessments, and staff availability.
- The provision may:
  - Open fully – if safe for all.
  - Open partially – if only some pupils/staff can safely attend.
  - Close – if conditions make opening unsafe.

### **5. Communication**

- Parents/carers will be informed via text message, email, and the school website/social media (where applicable).
- Staff will be informed through internal communication channels.
- Transport providers will be notified promptly.

### **6. Therapies at the Forefront**

- Where attendance is unsafe, therapy sessions may be delivered remotely where possible (e.g., online counselling, wellbeing check-ins, therapeutic activities for home).
- Therapists will provide families with guidance on maintaining emotional regulation and routine during closures.
- Pupils with high emotional needs will be prioritised for contact and support during disruption.

## **7. Pupil Support During Closures**

- Staff and therapists will provide wellbeing calls or virtual check-ins to maintain therapeutic relationships.
- Home learning packs or online resources may be provided, with an emphasis on therapeutic engagement rather than solely academic work.
- Clear routines and reassurance will be offered to reduce anxiety caused by sudden change.

## **8. Monitoring and Review**

- After each period of snow disruption, leadership will review the effectiveness of procedures.
- This policy will be reviewed annually or after significant weather events.