

Severe Weather Policy



In the event that weather conditions prove to be severe it may be necessary to consider closing the school to ensure the safety of the pupils and staff.

1. When severe weather is forecast the Principal will consider the information available. A decision will then be taken as to whether the school will close or remain open. The school will be closed only if the weather is exceptionally severe and to remain open would pose a significant risk to safety of pupils and staff **(please be aware the majority of staff do live in rural locations.)**

2. If the weather conditions become severe overnight and there is a risk that the school will be closed the next day:

- A decision to close the school will usually be made by the Principal by 7.30am at the latest on the day in question. For sustained periods of bad weather a decision will be made at the earliest possible time the evening before.
- The Principal will contact the local media, the Chair of the Board of Governors and the Department of Education to inform them of the decision to close.
- **Parents and Staff will receive a text using the school's C2k text service. The School Website and Twitter account will also publicise a School Closure!**
- Local media will be informed of the school's decision to close.
- The BBC will publish a list of schools that are closed on the BBC's Digital Text Service and, in the event of a significant number of schools deciding to close on the BBCNI news website at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ninews>
- An Emergency School Closure Notice will also be posted on the NI Direct Website. The link to the NI Direct page is <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/list-of-school-closures>

3. If the weather turns severe after the beginning of the school day and it is decided that the school must close early:

- Parents /Guardians will receive a text using the School's C2k text service.

4. If the school is opened as normal but there are **severe** weather conditions forecast for the local area.

- Parents must decide for themselves whether it is safe for their child to travel to school. If the child is kept at home then their absence should be notified to the class teacher on their return in the normal way.
- If severe weather closes in when a child is at school and a parent wishes their child to leave for home early the parent should contact the school for arrangements to be made. Depending on the circumstances the school may advise that it would be safer for the child to remain in school for a time before leaving for home.
- All such arrangements must be made by the parent through the school secretary/Principal to ensure that relevant staff are aware of pupils' whereabouts.