

Severe Weather Contingency Plan

Closure due to Winter Emergency

During the winter months there may be occasions when emergencies make it necessary for pupils to be sent home prematurely and in these circumstances we would ask that you advised us as to where your children should go. Please ensure that you keep emergency contact information up to date to ensure the safe dismissal of pupils. For those of you who live some distance away it would be beneficial, where possible, to have a contact close to the school for situations such as heavy snow fall (please notify the school).

During severe cold winter weather, schools and services can be affected for a variety of reasons, such as those noted below:

the access road is not on a priority or severe weather route and is therefore untreated;

- insufficient staff are able to reach their place of work to maintain minimum ratios;
- pupils are unable to reach school safely;
- school buses stop operating and public transport is severely disrupted;
- problems with the heating supply;
- water supply is compromised resulting in disruption to sanitation services; and,
- access routes around the establishment are considered hazardous or are blocked by snow and ice.

The decision to close a school rests with the Director of Education and parents will be notified through our school website, school twitter page, local radio and our Text Messaging Service.

