

## **Adverse weather & Emergency Procedures**

### **South Lanarkshire Council**

Exceptional circumstances due to snow, ice, flooding, or storms, may mean a school cannot open at its normal time or may have to close early.

The presumption is that schools will do all they can to open (even if this means a delayed start – 10 am) unless there are exceptional circumstances where staff cannot arrive due to road conditions and the overall position is deemed hazardous. In an authority as diverse as ours, conditions will be different in various localities with Leadhills, for example, being one of the highest schools in Scotland.

Where there are extreme weather conditions predicted Education Resources HQ will consider in partnership with Police Scotland, the Scottish Government, the council's emergency planning team and the MET Office weather alerts and if they are amber and red consideration will be given to the issue of specific guidance for schools and educational settings, as per current practice.

Our approach is to take account of the safety of children, young people, and staff. In the event of bad weather or when the school has no heating a delayed start option can be triggered on a school-by-school basis by a Head Teacher if deemed appropriate, for the conditions in their locality.

It is unlikely there will be a blanket closure unless there is a red weather alert, Government advice or specific conditions which require a decision to be made by the Executive Director of Education Resources.

### **Carmichael Primary**

- In most cases a risk assessment will be carried out between 7.00 am when the janitor arrives and 7.30 am.
- We will endeavour to post information to parents before 8am. **In some circumstances, such as power cuts, you may be contacted by staff in our partner school, Braehead Primary.**
- This will be posted on :
  - Parent Portal
  - South Lanarkshire Social Media Platforms
  - Parent Council Chair by phone/ parent whatsapp group
- A member of school staff will also make contact with the parent council chair by telephone, they will post information on the parent whatsapp group. If you are not in the whatsapp group contact Danielle Nisbet on **07814332699**.
- It is council policy in most cases to have an initial delay until 10am. **Please be aware that if the initial message is a delayed start until 10am, there is still a possibility the school will close.**
- There will be on-going risk assessment and discussion between school staff and Education. The decision to close the school is authorised by Education and the

school cannot confirm closure until we have this authorisation – we appreciate this can be frustrating and inconvenient.

- If there is a delayed start this will impact on school transport, they may not be able to do the school run. Parents will have to bring pupils to school themselves at 10am. Pupils cannot be left before 10am in case the decision is made to close the school.
- In some instances, the school bus companies may do their own risk assessment and conclude that it is not safe for their buses to run. If the school is open parents may bring pupils to school if they believe it is safe. It is important to note that they will also have to collect pupils at the end of the day if the bus companies are not running, or if conditions deteriorate and the school has to close early.
- If school is to open at 10am this will be shared on:
  - Parent Portal
  - South Lanarkshire Social Media Platforms
  - Parent Council Chair by phone/ parent whatsapp group
- If it is safe to open with a delayed start, in most cases, school transport will take pupils home as normal.
- If the decision is made to close the school this will be communicated as soon as we have authorisation from Education via:
  - Parent Portal
  - South Lanarkshire Social Media Platforms
  - Parent Council Chair by phone/ parent whatsapp group
- If adverse weather impacts during the school day, we will liaise with Education and transport companies to risk assess the situation and agree the safest course of action.
- If the decision is taken to start an early closure parents and carers will be informed by:
  - Parent Portal
  - South Lanarkshire Social Media Platforms
  - Parent Council Chair by phone/ parent whatsapp group
- School staff (Carmichael or Braehead) will also contact all parents directly by phone, to inform them of the early closure and to ensure that there is someone home for pupils who may be leaving early on school transport. No pupil will leave school unless we know there is an adult at home.
- In the above circumstances pupils will not be marked late as we appreciate that everyone's routines will be disrupted, and we will be happy to see them whenever they can get in!

**Please ensure that the school has up-to date contact numbers for you or whoever will be collecting your child/children, as grandparents etc will not have access to the portal or parents whatsapp group!**

**Thank you for you co-operation in these difficult circumstances.**