

Schools and severe weather

In the event of closures schools will contact parents/carers in the normal way via Groupcall. Parents/carers should ensure that their school/nursery has up to date contact information.

In addition changes will be notified via [Facebook \(Opens in a new window\)](#), [Twitter \(Opens in a new window\)](#) and local media.

School closures

The Head Teacher has responsibility for undertaking a risk assessment in the event of severe weather or building difficulties. There are several factors which may impact on this decision including: the building itself and whether there is water and power, access to the school and decisions of school transport operators; and whether there are enough staff available to ensure that the school can open safely; and whether it is safe to send children home during severe weather. The Head Teacher takes the decision to close a school to pupils in consultation with a member of the senior management team in Education Services.

Travelling to school

In extreme weather conditions such as snow, parents/carers should carry out a risk assessment as to whether they consider it safe for their child to travel or walk to school. Parents/carers should then inform the school of their decision at the earliest opportunity.

GLOW

All West Lothian pupils have access to the education community GLOW. Pupils who can access a computer at home, at libraries or Community Centres, can access study material via GLOW. The private website has study material and activities.

West Lothian Council GLOW allows teachers and pupils to communicate over the internet in a safe and secure way. Teachers can post work and lessons for pupils. Pupils can submit completed work. Features include safe and secure 'chat rooms' where teachers can answer pupil questions, and where pupils can help each other out and share learning experiences.