

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AND SCHOOL CLOSURES

COUNCIL POLICY & ADVICE FOR PARENTS

USEFUL INFORMATION

Whilst the Education, Culture & Sports Committee attempts to ensure that the education of children is interrupted as little as possible, it accepts that in severe weather conditions the safety of pupils is paramount and that partial or complete closure of schools may be necessary.

This leaflet is designed to provide parents with a general statement of council policy and with advice as to their own responsibilities in the event of closure due to emergency situations. Individual schools will have detailed plans for dealing with emergency closure situations.

Your Responsibility as a Parent/Carer

You must decide whether it is safe for your child to travel to school in adverse weather conditions, whether by school transport or on foot. Should you decide not to send your child because of adverse weather you should inform the school.

You must provide the school with information about emergency contacts who can be reached if you are not available and keep the Head Teacher advised of any changes to this information. You must also advise the school of any changes to your own daytime contact details.

When will schools be closed?

Head Teachers have discretion to decide if and when schools should close due to adverse weather conditions. They will do this on the basis of information they receive about prevailing or forecast weather conditions. The Head Teacher will consider whether pupils, on leaving the school, will be able to reach their own homes safely or another acceptable place of safety.

Sometimes only part of the school may be closed or only some pupils dismissed early.

If you yourself become concerned during the school day about local weather conditions you should not hesitate to contact the school. You may wish to collect your child/children in person from school and you are free to do this provided you advise staff.

If you are advised by the school or concerned that it may not be opening you are advised to listen out for radio news broadcasts and to check the ACC School Closures Website on the internet. The ACC Schools' Information Telephone Line will also provide information on school closures. Local radio stations will be supplied with information about school closures.

Parents can now use the Schools Information Line.

Keeping Parents Informed

If your child attends a Nursery, Primary or Special School which is to close early due to adverse weather every effort will be made to contact you by telephone. If this is not possible then the school will contact the named 'emergency contact' provided by you for this purpose. Secondary schools may dismiss pupils in certain circumstances without first contacting parents.

If you are in any doubt or concerned about these procedures contact your child's Head Teacher.

Individual Schools will advise parents of any local arrangements relating to transport or geographical factors.

What might my child be missing?

Some parents and pupils are often concerned that important examinations or work may be missed because the school is closed or conditions make it difficult to attend.

Such concerns should not override good judgement. **The safety and welfare of your child is paramount.** Arrangements can be made for lost time to be made up and examinations can be rearranged.

SCHOOLS INFORMATION TELEPHONE LINE 0870 054 1999

ABERDEEN GRAMMAR SCHOOL PIN CODE: 011000

INTERNET SCHOOL CLOSURES WEBSITE www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/closure