



## Information Update Adverse Weather/School Closures

The overall objective for all staff is to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people. Overall, there is a clear presumption in favour of keeping establishments open wherever practical in order to minimise the impact on the education provision for learners. However, the Head Teacher in liaison with Education Resources HQ, may take the unusual step of closing an establishment where there is concern about the safety of children or employees. Schools have procedures in place in the event of such circumstances.

There are two main types of closures associated with adverse weather:-

### 1. The school is unable to open for the day.

This is extremely rare and would be as a result of a decision by SLC to close all schools or due to an emergency situation arising within the school overnight e.g flooding.

Under these circumstances parents/carers can:-

- Consult the SLC and our Parent Council websites for any updates
- Follow SLC Twitter
- Listen to local radio stations e.g Radio Clyde
- Check inboxes for e-mails from Parent Council/School

### 2. The school needs to close early.

This situation is also rare and will always be avoided. Where an early closure is deemed necessary by the Head Teacher and SLC, this is unlikely to be before lunchtime and the school would not close until the last pupil is collected. The decision to close early will depend on the assessed safety and welfare of children, current weather conditions in the area, the weather forecast, road and traffic conditions and availability of staff.

Under these circumstances parents/carers can:-

- Receive a text message from the school informing them of an early closure (we have this facility for all parental mobile numbers noted via the annual data check)
- Consult the SLC, school and our Parent Council websites for any updates
- Follow SLC Twitter
- Listen to local radio stations e.g Radio Clyde
- Check inboxes for e-mails from Parent Council/School

### How can you help?

- *Ensure the school holds updated contact details at all times.*
- *Subscribe to our Parent Council/school mailing list. Please log on to [www.burnsideprimary.org](http://www.burnsideprimary.org) to subscribe.*
- *Please clarify who will be collecting your child, if calling the school.*
- *Please be patient when you arrive to collect your child; we need to ensure all children leave the school safely*
- *We would be grateful to any parent volunteers living locally to help manage incoming calls to the school in the event of an early closure. Please contact us at the school if you may be able to help. We will only contact you if we really need to.*

## FAQs

**Q Will the school grounds be gritted?**

A The janitor will ensure that there is a cleared path from the school gates to the main door.

**Q Why is the Head Teacher unable to confirm whether the school will remain open for the remainder of the day?**

A Due to disruption to transport links and difficult driving conditions, the Head Teacher will be unsure of staffing numbers before 9 a.m. In this instance, he/she will inform parents on arrival of this uncertainty and ask whether they would prefer to take their child home before the start of the day.

**Q Why might school staff advise me to take my child home before 9 a.m.?**

A The Head Teacher has a duty to inform parents that, for safety reasons, that they may wish to return their child home before 9 a.m. where it is unclear whether the school may close early. The Head Teacher will be aware that for many parents, this may cause less disruption than having to return later in the day should there be an early closure.

**Q Will my child be marked 'absent' if I follow safety advice and take him/her back home before 9 a.m.?**

A If the school remains open for the remainder of the day, your child will be marked 'absent' as the school cannot record the attendance of any child who is not registered in class. Many parents, who are able, decide to return their child home for safety reasons however it should be noted that an absence will be recorded if the child is not in school when registers are taken and the school remains open into the afternoon. Some parents call the school for an update around 9.30 am when staff numbers are clearer, then make the decision whether to send their child to school following updated information.

**Q Will the school close before I can collect my child?**

A No. The school will not close until the last child is collected. The Head Teacher, or next available senior member of staff, will remain in school or contact parents regarding an agreed drop-off if necessary.

**Q Will my child's lessons take place as normal?**

A In extreme and rare circumstances, this cannot be guaranteed. Where staffing and pupil numbers are low, it may be necessary for children from different classes to be put together. The available teacher would provide appropriate activities for the children.