

Guidance for Parents on School Closure Due to Bad Weather

A) If there is severe weather overnight

- If the school must close, a message will be read out on local radio. Please do not try to contact the radio station directly, it is unlikely that they will be able to respond.
- Closure will also be communicated by text message and email to parents, on our website and through our social media.
- If any student arrives at school unaware of the closure a member of staff will be there to help. Students may phone parents without charge to decide whether they should return home or wait to be collected.

B) If the weather deteriorates throughout the day

- The school will be closed early only in extreme cases.
- The decision to close the school will be made by the Principal and the Chair of Governors following consultation with bus companies.
- Decisions about early closure will be communicated to staff and students as soon as this is appropriate.
- The closure may be staggered. Students who live furthest from the school may go first depending on road conditions.
- Students who use school buses will be told of any change to normal routes if this occurs so they can decide the best way home.
- Students being collected from school or with other arrangements will be allowed to phone home for advice on what to do.
- Students who can walk home will be sent preferably in family groups or in the company of other students who live near each other.
- School will be kept open with staff on hand until the last student has left.
- In the event of a school closure announced during the morning, best efforts will be made to ensure those students entitled to a free school meal are provided with a sandwich and a drink as a minimum.

How parents can help

- Check the website, email and text for information communicated by the academy.
- Assume school is open if the radio/website/email/text/social media does not announce otherwise and you have not received an email/text from the school.
- Agree in advance with your child what to do in a bad weather emergency.
- Only call the school in bad weather if you really have to – calls in prevent calls out!