

Scoil Íosagáin

Policy on: Emergency Closures Procedure

Emergency Closures Procedure Policy

Introduction

The school policy on emergency closures was drafted as a whole school exercise, involving parents, staff and Board of Management of Scoil Íosagáin.

Rationale

The need for the school to devise a policy on emergency closures in recent years is primarily due to inclement weather, such as heavy snowfalls, icy roads etc.

Relationship to School Ethos

Scoil Íosagáin strives to provide a child friendly, secure environment catering for the needs of all students as far as is practicable and where respect is fostered in a culture which values diversity and difference.

Aims and Objectives

- To provide for the welfare of all pupils while on the school premises
- To ensure a safe, child friendly school environment is available to all children
- To conform with Health and Safety legislation

Procedures

Heavy Snowfall

In the event of a heavy snowfall, the Principal shall consult with the Chairperson of the BOM as soon as is feasible, and a decision will be made as to whether it is in the interests of all parties to close the school.

If it is decided to close the school, the school authorities will notify parents through the Text a Parent service and will contact the local radio station, Tipp FM and request that regular announcements be carried on the airwaves that the school will not be opening.

All bus operators servicing the school will be contacted by the Principal or another designated person, confirming that the school will not be opening. If the snowfall is prolonged over a number of days and the school is closed indefinitely, parents and bus operators will be informed of re-opening dates through the local radio station and the Text a Parent facility.

Disconnection of Services:

Where water or electricity services to the school are to be disconnected, a week's notification is normally given to the school authorities. This enables the school to furnish the parent body with the relevant advance warning of such closures via circular or text. It is not the policy of the school to confirm such closures through the local Radio station.

High Winds/Thunderstorms:

The procedures in place for heavy snowfall are generally replicated in the event of storms/lightning i.e. parents and bus operators are contacted via local radio or Text a Parent and informed that the school will remain closed. If the school has already opened and is in operation when high winds etc. occur and remaining on the premises is a risk to all - teachers will remain on the premises until all the children have been collected by either parents/guardians or bus operators.

Critical Incident/Death:

In some instances the school might remain closed for pupils in the event of a critical incident or death of a staff member, BOM member or pupil. Parents are informed of such closures either by circular or text. In this particular instance, the school may remain open to staff and BoM or Parents Association if issues such as church services, Guards of honour, readings or counseling is required (See Health & Safety Policy for Critical Incident Procedures)

Please note:

All half days and staff planning closures are notified to parents at least one week in advance.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Emergency closures in the school place particular responsibilities on various personnel within the school chain of command.

Success Criteria

- Positive school community feedback
- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation
- Maintaining a safe school environment for all staff, children and parents

Ratification

This policy was reviewed by Staff of Scoil Íosagáin and ratified by Board of Management in Oct. 2013

This policy will be implemented following ratification in 2013.

This policy will be communicated to staff and parents association. A copy will be available to all parents in the school plan.

Signed D. Cunningham
Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 10.10.2013

Signed Alma Quinn
Principal

Date: 10.10.13

