

Bishop Barrington School

ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

Introduction

Every attempt is made to ensure continuity of education, but there may be extreme conditions when it is not possible to open the school for safety reasons. Alternatively, there may be circumstances where deteriorating weather conditions force a decision to close the School early.

In such circumstances the following procedures will be followed.

Forecasts of Extreme Weather

If the forecast is for extreme weather conditions that may lead to road closures and transport disruption, staff, parents, carers and pupils will be put onto “weather alert” footing. This will involve informing them of the steps that will be taken in the event of a closure being unavoidable.

Closure before the start of School day

A decision to close Bishop Barrington School will, where possible, be made before 7 a.m. The closure decision will be made following consultation with the Senior Leadership Team based on the most up-to-date information available on local road and weather conditions, transport and traffic delays, weather forecasts and consultation with other schools in the locality.

If the School is to be closed, the local radio station will be informed and will broadcast information about the closure. Closure messages to the radio station require an authentication code that is changed annually.

The radio stations broadcasting information about the closure of the school will be:

Station & Frequency
TFM FM 96.6 MHz
Star Radio FM 103.2 MHz

Informing the local radio station ensures that the School will also be listed as closed on their website and thus provide an additional source of information.

<http://www.tfmradio.com/>

<http://www.thisisstar.co.uk/>

The closure decision will also be highlighted on the School's website homepage; www.bishopbarrington.net

The school telephone answering service message will be amended, to inform callers of the school closure.

All staff will be informed via e-mail at 7am of the closure.

Students can access educational resources/homework via the school's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) at any time during the school closure.

<http://vle.bishopbarrington.net/login/index.php>

Closure during the School day

Any decision about an early closure will be made by the Senior Leadership Team. Such a decision will be based on local traffic and weather reports. If pupils cannot make their way home safely the school will provide adequate supervision and parents and carers of these pupils will be contacted. The school will remain open and staffed until the last pupils have been collected.

Reopening after an emergency closure

A decision to re-open the school after a forced emergency closure will be made, where possible, before 7 a.m. Such a decision will be based on the most up-to-date information available on local weather and road conditions, transport and traffic delays and weather forecasts for the immediate future. The radio stations will **not** announce re-openings; therefore, staff, parents and pupils should understand that unless the school is listed as being closed it is likely to be open as normal. Check the school website to confirm this. As soon as a member of the Reception Team arrives in school, the answering service standard message will be restored, so that callers will know that the School is open.

Policy adopted by Safeguarding Committee : December 2010

Policy review date: December 2011