

SEVERE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

As you know, the weather during winter can become severe quite suddenly. As a result of this, Aberdeenshire Council has clear policies and practices regarding snowstorm and other severe weather arrangements.

1. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS DURING SNOWSTORMS/SEVERE WEATHER

If you live in an isolated location, and the weather is severe at the beginning of the day, it would be advisable for your child/ward to remain at home for that day. On such occasions please phone and inform the school.

- If school transport is not running please **do not** bring your child to school.
- If you normally bring your child/ward into school by car then you must come with your child/ward to the School Office, so that we can advise you regarding the transport situation. In the past some pupils have been dropped off at school by parents/carers who have then had to make a second journey immediately to collect pupils and take them home.

2. BUSES UNABLE TO REACH SCHOOL AFTER STARTING A JOURNEY

The hirer will contact us. We will then attempt to contact those on the “priority calls” lists (as detailed further on in this letter), to let those involved know that their child/ward is coming home again.

3. EARLY CLOSURE AND RECALLING THE BUSES EARLY TO TAKE PUPILS HOME

In certain circumstances the school will recall the buses and then send pupils home.

(a) Communicating early closure information to parents/carers

- The school will inform all parents/carers by SEEMIS text message.
- The phone line message will be updated.
- The schools closure information on the Aberdeenshire School Closure website will be updated.

Please **do not** phone the school as this jams the switchboard and prevents us making important phone calls. If you have a mobile phone it is essential that we have an accurate number to use for the text service.

(b) Action required by all parents/carers

The buses will transport pupils to the normal drop-off points. Parents/Carers and young people should ensure that they have made suitable arrangements (eg understanding of these procedures, access to the house, keys etc.) in case of early closure.

4. INSTRUCTIONS TO YOUR CHILD/WARD

Please ensure your child/ward is clear on what they should do and where they should go in the event of a snowstorm or other severe weather. Bus pupils should be advised to wait for a maximum of 15 minutes in extreme weather conditions.