

Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Pádraig ST. PATRICK'S DE LA SALLE BOYS NATIONAL SCHOOL

Sráid an tSeipéil,
Caisleán an Bharraigh,
Co. Mhaigh Eo.



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Emergency Closures Policy

Rationale

The need for the school to devise a policy on emergency closures in recent years is primarily due to

- a) Inclement weather, such as heavy snowfalls, high winds etc.
- b) Building programmes and alterations to the design of the school which may necessitate unscheduled closures on Health and Safety grounds .

Relationship to School Ethos

St. Patrick's De La Salle National School strives to provide a child friendly, secure environment catering for all 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 B.O.M. as soon as is feasible, and a decision is 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 contact the local radio station, Midwest Radio, 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.

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. 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 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 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, B.O.M member or pupil. Parents are informed of such closures either by circular or text whichever is appropriate. In this particular instance, the school may remain open to staff and B.O.M or Parents Association if issues such as church services, Guards of Honour, readings or counseling is required (See Critical Incident Policy).

Please note

All half days and in-Service 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 –

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