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Gurraneasig N.S.

Kilbrittain,

Co.Cork

P72 YP78

Emergency Closures Policy

Whole School Plan

Introduction

The need for the school to produce a policy on emergency closures is primarily due to:

- The changes in weather conditions, such as heavy snowfalls, etc.
- Sudden closures due to electricity or heating breaking down

Relationship to School Ethos

The safety of our pupils, their families and the staff is of utmost importance to our school. Our vision is that every member of the school should feel happy, safe and be able to learn. We wish to keep a balance between keeping our community safe while not affecting their learning.

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 comply with Health and Safety legislation

Procedures

Severe Weather:

Every effort will be made to open the school in the event of snowfall. While staff will make every effort to come to school or arrange accommodation to allow them come to school, safety must override any decisions that might put them in danger. As long as there are enough members of staff to teach, the school will open. All staff and parents should make their own decision as to whether it is safe for them to travel in the morning.

A minimum number of staff is required for a school to be able to open. Staff who cannot come to school should let the principal know, no later than 7:45am of the school day. This is to ensure that there is enough time to tell parents whether the school can open or not.

In the event of severe weather conditions, the principal shall consult with the local

principals in Kilbriain NS and Ballinspittle NS and then 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 will do the following:

- Send a text message(via Text a Parent) to each family letting them know the school is closed
- An email will be sent via Aladdin to every family
- A Tweet on our Twitter page will also be sent
- Contact Local Radio(REDFM & 96FM) to inform them of our closure

If the severe weather is prolonged over a number of days and the school is closed indefinitely, parents will be contacted via Text Message.

With regards to making up school days, it is anticipated that The Board of Management will discuss these procedures with the staff to reach an agreement at the next BOM meeting.

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 school email. The school will not send a text message out for situations where more than 2 days notice is received.

If the electricity disconnects in the morning before school opens, the ESB network will be contacted. If there is no expected time of re-connection, the school cannot open. This is due to the fact that all heating, lighting, alarms, etc. rely on the electricity working in the school. However, if the electricity cuts out during the school day, the school will endeavour to continue lessons as best possible until parents collect their children.

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 email or text. In this particular instance, the school may remain open to staff and BOM or Parents Association if issues such as counseling is required (See Critical Incident Management Policy).

Roles and Responsibilities

Emergency closures in the school place particular responsibilities on various personnel

within the school according to seniority in the school. The chairperson should be kept up to date with any such incidents.

Implementation and Review

This policy was Ratified by the Board of Management on 22/01/2019.

It will be reviewed by the Board of Management: **November 2021**

Signed _____
Chairperson, Board of Management