



OUR LADY & ST JOHN
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

Bad Weather Procedure

Occasionally the weather may be so severe that journeys to and from school may be considered too hazardous. A school like ours, where a significant number of pupils travel to and from school by bus, is vulnerable to closure in these circumstances. Decisions to close school or send pupils home early are always extremely difficult to make and are never taken lightly. Full regard is given to the Local Authority guidance, current weather reports, advice from the bus company and other public services in the area.

Many parents ring school in these circumstances and occasionally may not be able to get through due to the high demand of callers. At Our Lady & St John we will post up to date information on our school website (www.olsj.blackburn.sch.uk) regarding any decisions about transport and/or school closure.

In the event of severe weather overnight... The decision to close school will be made early. Information will be posted on our website so please refer to this in the first place. (Remember you may need to refresh the page to get the most current information).

We will also contact local Radio stations – BBC Radio Lancashire 95.5FM, 103.9 or 104.5FM and The Bee 96.3FM, 106.5 or 107FM who will announce school closures or refer you to their website to check the list.

We are also legally obliged to inform the Local Authority of closure and therefore a list of school closures will be posted on their website.

In addition a text message will be sent to all Parents on our database and it is therefore crucial that we have your up to date contact details.

If the weather deteriorates during the school day...

School will only close in extreme circumstances in order to allow our pupils and staff to get home safely. This decision will be made by the Headteacher and the Chair of Governors will be informed where possible.

Staff and pupils will be informed as soon as arrangements are in place and we will inform pupils of any changes in transport routes by the Bus company e.g. if buses are unable to get up North Road from Audley Range.

A text message will be sent by school to all Parents on the database informing them of the school closure. Those who are picked up or walk home will be given permission to contact home to see if other arrangements need to be made e.g. the child should walk to their grandparents.

School will be kept open with staff cover until all pupils have been able to contact/get home. Please be aware staff are not normally allowed to take pupils home.

Further help

Please talk to your son/daughter about a bad weather plan and anticipate what would happen if...

Only call school in an emergency. Please check the website first.

If school is open, please be assured that we will have been notified that there will be enough staff on site to run a timetable. Pupils should make every effort to get into school.