



Scoil Naisiúnta Rónáin Naofa Cluain Lua

St. Ronan's N.S., Cloonloo, Boyle, Co. Sligo

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Roll No: 127676

School Patron: Most Rev. Paul Dempsey, Bishop of Achonry

Emergency Closures Policy

Introduction

The school policy on emergency closures was drafted as a whole school exercise, involving parents, pupils, staff and Board of Management. It was communicated to the entire school community in March 2021 and posted on the school website.

Rationale:

The need for the school to produce a policy on emergency closures is primarily due to inclement weather, such as heavy snowfalls, high winds etc.

Relationship to School Ethos:

St. Ronan's N.S. 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 comply with Health and Safety legislation

Procedures

Heavy Snowfall:

In the event of a heavy snowfall, the Principal shall consult with 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.

All parents and staff will be contacted by the Principal or another designated person, via TextAParent or text confirming whether the school will be opening or not by 8.15 a.m.

If there is a possibility of the snow clearing enough to safely open the school late, parents will be notified of this in the first text and a further text will be sent by 10.00 a.m. notifying parents of the decision.

If the snowfall is prolonged over a number of days and the school is closed indefinitely, parents will be informed of re-opening dates through TextAParent or text.

High Winds/Thunderstorms:

The procedures in place for heavy snowfall are generally replicated in the event of storms/lightning i.e. parents are contacted via TextAParent or text 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 the children have been collected by either parents/guardians.

Burst Water Pipes/Flooding/Heating System Failure/Power Outages

Where the school building is unsafe to use due to burst water pipes/flooding or is not suitable for use due to heating system failure/power outages - parents and staff will be notified as soon as possible via TextAParent or text.

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 text or email.

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 text or email. In this particular instance, the school may remain open to staff and BoM 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. These roles and responsibilities help maintain:

- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation
- A safe school environment for all staff, children and parents
- Positive school community communication and feedback

Ratification and Communication:

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on 2nd December 2020.

Implementation and Review:

The policy will be reviewed in the light of unplanned events that lead to unscheduled school closures, but not later than March 2025.

Signed: Fr Joseph Canfield Date: 15 March 2021
(Chairperson BOM)

Signed: Maria-Goretti Surlis Date: 15/3/2021
(Principal)