

# EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE

**The default position is that St Bernard's will be open.**

However, in the rare event of severe weather or other emergency it may be necessary to close the school. These decisions are not made lightly and we are very aware of the difficulties this causes for our families and of the disruption to our students' education.

Decisions are made on the basis of student and staff safety – both from the perspective of physical site safety and on the basis of sufficient staff being able to reach school to ensure safe supervision of our students. We may, at our discretion, decide to close the school to some year groups and keep it open for others.

Members of staff are asked to make every effort to get to school bearing in mind the issue of travelling safely.

Please note: As a school, we will be in regular contact with the bus companies, however if we are informed that buses will not be running, we will take this in to account.

## **What happens if the school decides to close overnight?**

We will do everything in our power to make and publish our decision by 7.30am on the day in question; however it must be appreciated that some situations may not give us enough notice to do so!

- A text message will be sent out to all parents/carers and staff at the earliest opportunity; we aim for this to go out by approximately 7.30am.
- The local radio station (Rother FM, Hallam FM, Radio Sheffield) will be advised.
- A notice will be placed on the school website [www.sbch.org.uk](http://www.sbch.org.uk)

## **What happens if the school decides to close during the school day?**

If for safety reasons we have to decide on closure part way through a school day because of deteriorating conditions, we will update the website and use the text/email system to inform parents. Please discuss arrangements with your child to ensure that they are clear about where to go and how to communicate with you in the event of early closure.

If you think there may be a possibility of the school closing, we ask that you check using the following methods:

- The School website will be used to provide an alert; it will be on the front page.
- We will inform the LA and so they should be able to give you information if you cannot access the website.
- Local Radio Stations will be advised (Rother FM, Hallam FM, Radio Sheffield).
- A text will be sent where we have parents/carers most up to date numbers. Experience suggests that this is not always reliable at times of high demand on mobile networks and demands are greater when travel arrangements are disrupted.

Where the school has to close due to inclement weather, any evening events will be re-scheduled.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

January 2023