



Kilkeel High School Adverse Weather Policy

Aim

It is the school's aim to remain open, allowing learning and teaching to continue whenever possible. Where adverse weather causes conditions that make it impossible to open the school, prove hazardous to pupil and staff safety, or cause inadequate staffing levels, a decision to close the school will be taken (in line with guidelines provided by the Department of Education).

Procedures

The school is committed to ensuring all parents, staff and pupils are informed in the event of an unplanned school closure. When such a decision is taken members of the school community will be notified by **7am** (*whenever possible*) on that day, using the methods detailed below.



Our Groupcall parental text messaging service will be used to notify parents and staff in the event of a school closure (Please ensure the school has your most recent mobile number).



Our website, www.kilkeelhigh.org, will advise parents, staff and pupils in the event of a school closure. The adverse weather policy will also be available for Download here.



Our social media feeds, Facebook and Twitter will notify parents, pupils and staff in the event of a school closure.

Facebook - @kilkeelhighofficial



Twitter - @kilkeelhigh



The school's App (available on our website) will provide a notification to parents, staff and pupils in the event of a closure.



Details will be added to the BBC Northern Ireland News page highlighting school closures.

Additional Information

- Parents are advised to check for information before sending their child to school.
- In the event that the school remains open, suitable winter clothing should be worn.
- Parents should consider the availability, suitability and safety of transport to and from school.
- Where adverse weather occurs during the school day, necessitating the early closure of the school, parents will be notified using the methods previously described.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring the accuracy of contact telephone numbers and addresses, the school should be advised of any changes.
- In the event of the school remaining open during adverse weather, it may be necessary to combine some classes to ensure an adequate pupil/teacher ratio.
- Pupils are expected to conduct themselves safely during icy and/or snowy conditions and should not behave in any manner likely to cause injury or damage property.
- In severe conditions pupils may be asked to remain inside during break and lunchtime, in the interests of safety.
- Pupils walking to school and those walking in the school grounds should be aware that vehicles may find it more difficult to stop or lose grip suddenly and should exercise caution when crossing roads.
- Parents leaving their children to school by car are reminded that they should not enter the school grounds, pupils should be left on Knockchree Avenue (after the main gate) and use the pedestrian path provided. A congested car park, especially in the roundabout area, presents a risk to pupil safety.
- Pupils should be aware that corridor and classroom floors may be slippery during adverse weather and should exercise caution.

If you require further information, please contact the school.