

ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Inclement weather / School closure information and protocol

Emergency School Closure Procedure

In the event of incidents such as adverse weather/extreme weather warnings or power failure, every attempt will be made to keep the school open, operational and safe for pupils, staff and visitors; our key aim will be to minimise disruption to learning and teaching. However, the prime object will be the health and safety of everyone in our school community. Under such circumstances we will carry out a risk assessment, taking account of the conditions on site to ascertain if it is safe to keep the school open.

Considerations for closure will include the following;

- Current weather conditions and weather forecast
- Police advice on travelling (including the safety of walking and cycling to school)
- Advice from the Local Authority
- Availability of teaching staff
- Availability of key non-teaching staff (e.g. support, caretaking and catering)
- Safety of the site and ability of emergency services to access our site.

When assessing the need for closure we will also consider whether any mitigation measures are possible, such as partially opening the school to some students.

Closure to the School due to bad weather overnight

If the school is to be closed we will make every effort to inform parents and carers before 7:00 a.m. This includes contacting via Schoolcomms, local radio stations and via the school website which will also be used for updates. The Local Authority will hold details of all school closures and the local radio (Wire FM) will announce on air.

The school website www.stgregoryshigh.com will contain the most up to date information and parents/carers should check it regularly for updates.

If the school is closed you do not need to report your child as absent.

When the school is open during adverse weather

During adverse weather we will always try our best to keep the school open as much as possible, as long as we have sufficient staff to make it safe to do so. Please be aware of the following;

- It may be necessary to open the school later than normal to allow staff and students to travel safely.

- It maybe that, due to reduced staffing, school may be open only to certain year groups, with priority given to Year 7 and 11.

Closing the school early during the day

The school will do its utmost to remain open if adverse weather conditions/power failure arise during the school day. However, there may be circumstances where we need to close early so that pupils and staff can get home safely. If this happens, we will use Schoolcomms to alert parents and we will also update the school website. Pupils will be allowed to use their own mobile phones to contact you in such circumstances.

If a pupil is unable to leave school before the end of the school day, then they will be supervised until 3pm. Extracurricular activities will be cancelled.

Bus companies will be informed and **if** they are available we will ask them to attend school.

If the school is closed for more than one day

The school will put in place arrangements for remote learning, work will be made available via the MILK app. All parents should have subscribed to the Milk App.

Re-opening

Please continue to look at the website for information about re-opening.

Examinations

We will make every attempt to open the school for public examinations.

Checklist for Parents

- Please make sure you have given up to date phone numbers and email addresses to the school office.
- Please make sure that your child can get back into the house safely if the school closes early i.e. that the pupil has a key, knows a neighbour who has a spare key, or there is an agreed safe place where they can be supervised.
- Please have arrangements in place if school closure is announced in advance in order to safeguard your child/children.
- Please make sure you have subscribed to the MILK App.

NB. Please note in relation to early closure: Burtonwood Bus Company would be contacted. All other buses are Local Authority controlled and would not arrive until the end of the normal school day although public transport may be affected beyond our control and parents/carers would need to check availability.