



## Winter Weather

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service at all times, but exceptional circumstances may arise which lead to disruption. The school may be affected, for example, by

- severe weather
- power or other utility failure
- difficulties of fuel supply
- disruption to rail, bus or road services which prevent staff travelling to work

### Emergency Closures

A decision to close would normally only be taken on grounds of health and safety. In such cases we shall do all we can to let you know about the details of closure, restricted service or re-opening. We will use e-mails, twitter and our website to communicate, but these may be down if the issue is a power failure.

If a decision is made to close the school after the start of the school day, no pupil under 16 will be dismissed until appropriate contacts and arrangements have been made.

### Pathways

During periods of ice and snow the School creates clear pathways across playgrounds and between buildings whenever possible. Pupils and visitors must use these.

However, we cannot guarantee to clear all or even any pedestrian paths. When a partial thaw, refreeze and new snow occurs, then routes within the grounds can be difficult.

All users must exercise due care and attention and not endanger others. Appropriate footwear should be worn.

### Uniform and Footwear

#### Boots

When the underfoot conditions are difficult, either walking to or from school or within the grounds, then pupils are permitted to wear non-standard footwear. That is they can wear suitable boots rather than black shoes.

This is a concession to safety and not an excuse to wear fashion boots which are dangerous on ice or snow.

#### Clothing

Standard uniform items contain a full range of clothing for cold weather – jumpers, hats and scarves. A range of jackets (preferably in School colours) are acceptable to be worn over the blazer or taken off and the blazer put back on after arrival at school. Secondary pupils **must** wear their blazer in school.

Only the standard school jumper is permitted. Hoodies, school sports fleeces and track suit tops and other types of jumper are **not permitted** unless a dispensation is given by the school management team.

If required, a plain white t-shirt or similar can be worn under the white school shirt for extra warmth.

## **Cancellation of Training and Matches**

The PE staff notify parents and pupils of any cancellation of Saturday morning matches via the sports blog on the School website. This is normally done by 7am on Saturday morning.

Planned cancellations of midweek training are also be posted on the blog whenever possible. However, there may be occasions where the cancellation decision is made at the last minute and it will not be possible to give prior notice. In the event of very poor weather we can provide some form of indoor training, but as this can involve up to 50 pupils in a small gym, there can be limited value to this. In these circumstances those pupils who can make suitable arrangements for going home may do so, and a coach will work with the remaining group indoors until the usual finish time. Pupils who need to make arrangements may phone home from the office or PE base.

Cancellations will only be made in extreme conditions when safety is compromised or where the weather conditions would negate the value of training outdoors. Please ensure that your son/daughter clearly understands your wishes regarding whether they remain in school or come home early. Pupils will not be sent away early unless they confirm that they have alternative arrangements in place.

### **Snowballing**

Safety permitting, snowballing is permitted in designated areas. Pupils will be informed on the day which area is designated – usually the back rugby pitch. Such areas are open to pupils from P6 and above.

Snowballing is **not** permitted

- ◆ Close to school buildings
- ◆ In the car park
- ◆ At the main gates or practical block gates
- ◆ On the memorial pitch (University grounds)

All pupils have a responsibility for the safety of themselves and others and must exercise judgement.

Pupils who do not wish to take part should not enter the designated area.

**Severe disciplinary sanctions (exclusion) will be imposed on anyone throwing snowballs at passing vehicles or pedestrians.**

## **Stay at Home – Keep it to yourself**

Scottish Government has advised all schools that young people should not return to school until 48 hours after symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea have ceased to prevent the spread of infection.

Norovirus (winter vomiting bug) is more prevalent during the winter months. It spreads easily causing vomiting and diarrhoea. Other symptoms include mild fever, headaches, stomach cramps and aching limbs.

To reduce the chances of catching it

- Keep your hands clean
- Avoid raw, unwashed food
- Don't share towels, flannels or toothbrushes
- Keep household surfaces clean

If you catch norovirus - keep it to yourself

- Stay at home and keep your hands clean
- Avoid seeing other people for 48 hours after your symptoms go - especially avoid hospitals, care homes and schools
- Drink plenty of liquid - water is best
- Eat easily digestible food

If you advise us that your child is unwell during the winter months our office staff will ask you about the symptoms and if relevant remind you that children should not return to school until 48 hours after symptoms of vomiting and diarrhoea have stopped. Thank you for your cooperation in this. Further information is available on the NHS website :- [Further information](#)