



Your Ref:

Our Ref:

Date: 17 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL DURING ADVERSE WEATHER

I wish to remind parents/carers of our established arrangements in times of adverse weather. In such times we will endeavour to operate the school day with minimum disruption, however we must always put the safety of our pupils and staff first, and as such I ask you to consider the following guidance and retain a copy of the phone number of our Telephone Information Service, which you will find attached.

As you will be aware, the education authority encourages full attendance at the school but in the case of prevailing adverse weather conditions you may decide it is unsafe to send your child to school; however if you decide to send your child to school then it is your responsibility to determine if your child travels by transport or on foot.

If the weather becomes poor during the school day, transport can be problematic. If the school needs to close due to extreme conditions, I can assure you pupils will not be sent home until this can be done safely.

SCHOOL CLOSURE

- The school has a system of communication with parents and transport operations. There is a **free** Telephone Information Service: **0800 564 2272** and an Internet Information Service, details of which are attached. Please make sure you keep this in an obvious place to ensure you have the numbers to hand when you need them.
- Local radio stations issue news and weather bulletins about traffic conditions and school closures. Broadcast times are as follows:
- BBC Radio Highland (92-95 FM 810MW): 6.30am, 7.30am, 8.30am, 12.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.30pm. In extreme conditions Radio Highland will interrupt Radio Scotland transmissions, usually on the hour to carry emergency bulletins.
- Nevis Radio (96.6FM) will carry bulletins at roughly ten minute intervals between 7.00am and 8.00am.

Morning and late afternoon programmes carry local information on weather and road conditions affecting schools just after the national news.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO CONSIDER

- It should be noted that the final decision on whether it is safe to operate school transport rests with the drivers of school transport vehicles. Therefore there may be occasions on which the school is open but some routes, or part of routes, are unable to operate.
- Parents should advise their children on how long they should wait at the pick-up point for their transport. This will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and the availability of the shelter at the "pick-up point" time.
- If there is a case where a child is returning to a pick up point after an earlier delay in transport provision, parents should check the schools telephone information line for updated messages. Please note that for some routes the transport operator may contact the parent directly.
- Drivers are advised not to drop off children where there is a risk that they may not safely reach their family home. This may involve children being taken to an alternative place of safety, agreed in consultation with the school.
- Where parents are concerned about weather conditions at "drop-off" points, they should contact the school as early as possible.

Yours sincerely



Scott Steele
Head Teacher

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Internet Information Service

The Highland Council website www.highland.gov.uk will be updated with information of school closures:

Highland Council – Education and Learning – Schools closed today

However, please note that Lochaber High School will continue to update telephone information service. Our aim is to provide clear, unambiguous information to parents/carers with regard to school closures during periods of adverse weather.

Telephone Information Service

Dial Highland Councils access number
(Calls will not be charged)

0800 564 2272

Enter Lochaber High School PIN

041150

- You have two attempts to enter the PIN and you will be disconnected after a second failed attempt. If this happens, check the number and redial. If there is still a problem check with the school.
- You will hear the schools name – ensure this is correct before going on.
- You will be taken to the Main Menu where you will be given four options:

Option 1: this will be our message about adverse weather, if the school is closed or transport arrangements have been affected.

Options 2 and 3 – We do not make use of this facility on our system.

Option 4 – To enter a PIN for another school in the authority (for example a local primary school attended by a sibling).