



TILDARG PRIMARY SCHOOL

UNFORESEEN SCHOOL CLOSURE ARRANGEMENTS



In past years the snowfall has been so severe that many schools were forced to close under 'Unforeseen Circumstances'. As a result, DENI issued a **policy document** on how and when schools may close due to 'Unforeseen Circumstances'. The policy centres on a **Risk Assessment Framework** that will allow Principals to either keep open or close their school on an informed basis.

There are **four** headline items to be considered.

- ❖ Health and safety questions, including:
 - can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
 - can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
 - in an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
 - is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
- ❖ Transport - can buses, meal deliveries, etc., reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
- ❖ If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the PTR (Pupil Teacher Ratio) acceptable?
- ❖ Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been considered?

If a decision needs to be made to close due to snow, flood or unforeseen circumstances, we will, if at all possible, come to a decision the day before.

However, there may well be a time when the school will have to be closed on that morning.

That decision will be communicated via:

1. **The BBC**, who will:

- ❖ Create a dedicated webpage when they receive emergency closures from more than 5 schools. (Check - <http://www.bbc.co.uk/newsni>)
- ❖ Tweet closures on BBC NI Twitter (@BBCNewsNI) and
- ❖ Post closures on their BBC NI Facebook page

2. **The Education Authority**, who will provide a list of school closures via:

- ❖ Their website, <http://www.eani.org.uk/schools/school-closures/>
- ❖ Their Twitter page @Ed-Authority, @Education_NI,
- ❖ Their Facebook page @educationauthoritnyi

3. **The School**, who will:

- ❖ Post closures on their **Website** www.tildargps.co.uk
- ❖ Tweet closures on their **Twitter Page** @TildargPrimary.
- ❖ Use the **Text Service** to send a text to the mobile number provided for this service. **One** text will be sent per family. Character count is restricted so messages will be brief. This service will generally only be used for school closures, as it is a cost to the school.
- ❖ Message closures using the **Schools NI** App linked to the school website.

4. **The PTA** will, where possible:

- ❖ Post closures on their **Facebook Page** - 'Tildarg Primary School PTA'.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

K Dickson
Principal.