

Sperrinview Special School

Exceptional Closures Policy

There are different reasons why Sperrinview may be closed. There are planned closures due to holidays, staff training days, scheduled building work or other specific events relevant to school. School may also need to take exceptional closures due to factors like extreme weather, death of a staff member or pupil or electricity failure.

Decision-making process

Before taking the decision to open or close the school during periods of severe weather, the Principal, Miss Jordan or an agreed deputy, for example, Chair of the Board of Governors, Vice Principal or senior teacher, will consider the following:

- Can pupils/staff access the school building safely?
- Can pupils/staff be evacuated in an emergency?
- In an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
- Is the area where pupils are dropped-off by transport safe?
- Transport - can buses and vehicles transporting pupils reach the pupils' homes and school safely?
- Are there enough teachers and support staff to adequately supervise pupils?
- Local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling

Communication with parents and staff when the school decides to close

All parents and staff will be contacted via the agreed texting service, in the event of an exceptional closure. All parents and staff have agreed to the use of this system and parents and staff are expected to keep the school updated if and when mobile telephone numbers change.

Review

A sub-committee of the Board of Governors will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy as part of a timetabled, on-going process.

Signed: _____ Date: _____