

SCHOOL CLOSURE IN THE EVENT OF ADVERSE WEATHER

Our aim is to avoid, as far as possible, any uncertainty and confusion in the event of possible school closure. We believe that the best way to do this is to communicate as fully as possible with our parents. The school will make all practicable efforts to keep parents informed as to the situation with the school during adverse weather conditions, as we appreciate that such conditions and the uncertainty places very considerable difficulties upon parents.

There are rare occasions when our school will find it necessary to close. These are usually occasions when adverse weather means that the school site is unsafe and poses health and safety risks to the school community.

Our first consideration is always the safety of the children and staff. In adverse weather conditions, the journey to school for some staff may be too hazardous for them to set out and, once here, equally hazardous for them to get home. Health and Safety risk assessments mean that we cannot open the school if there are insufficient staff to properly supervise the children. We will also not open the school if we believe that the school grounds are unsafe.

In the event of adverse weather:

- **A decision will be made, as far as possible, before 8.00am as to whether the school should be open or needs to be closed.**
- **Parents will be sent a text/seesaw message. It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that the office have their main contact mobile number.**
- **In the event of closure, the school will place the information on the C2K MY SCHOOL portal. This information will then be relayed to the BBC and NI Direct websites. Parents can access this information via these websites.**
- **Information of the school closure will be posted on the**
 - school website www.holytrinity.belfast.co.uk
 - school Twitter account @holytrinitybelf.
- **In the event of the school having to close during the day, due to unforeseen worsening weather or similar unforeseen circumstances, parents will receive a text or information through seesaw and it will also be placed on the website and Twitter.**
- If the school grounds are deemed inaccessible, cars may be prevented from using the car parks and children may have to be dropped off at designated areas.
- In the event of snow, some pathways will be cleared and salted. Parents, children and visitors should be aware that pathways, even where cleared, do remain dangerous and caution should be exercised and children carefully supervised.
- Parents are asked to take special care when driving or walking in the school grounds in icy conditions.
- If snow is forecast all pre and after school supervision will be cancelled.

Thank you
Mrs F Boyd