

## LADY LOVAT PRIMARY SCHOOL ADVERSE WEATHER

The following guidelines are designed to assist parents during periods of severe weather when decisions have to be made regarding attendance at school.

- The decision as to whether a pupil should attempt to travel to school in adverse weather conditions lies with the parent or guardian. While recognising that your child's education should be interrupted as little as possible, the education authority accepts that in severe weather conditions the safety of the child is paramount. If there is any doubt about safety, your child should remain at home.
- For pupils using school transport, weather conditions and availability or otherwise of shelter at the pick - up point will dictate just how long a child should wait, and parents are asked to advise children appropriately in relation to prevailing conditions. During difficult weather conditions no pupil is expected to wait longer than twenty minutes past the normal 'pick – up' time.

Schools now have a dial-in service if there is a risk of closure due to adverse weather. This allows parents to listen to a recorded message from the Head Teacher.

When severe weather warnings are received your school will endeavour to keep the system updated. It is an enhancement to the present service and does **not** replace existing methods of giving out information, such as radio broadcasts, described in the schools Adverse Weather Guidelines.

There are other features of this service which may be available for your school. These are described below. (Note that this is an 0870 service and charges are slightly higher than normal)

### How to use the service.

- Dial Highland Council's access number - 0870 054 6999
- Now enter your own school's pin number 04 2460  
You have two attempts to enter the pin number and you will be disconnected after a second failed attempt.  
If this happens, check the number and redial. If you still have a problem check with your school.
- You will now hear the school's name. Ensure that this is correct before going on.
- You will now be taken to the MAIN MENU where you will be given 4 options:

**Press 1 to hear your school's message about the adverse weather** for example whether or not the school is to close or if transport arrangements have been affected.

**Press 4 to enter the pin number for another school within the authority.** Parents may have children who attend different schools. This option allows you to move from one school's messaging service to another without having to dial in again.

**Local Radio Stations** will issue news and weather bulletins conveying appropriate information regarding traffic conditions, school closures etc. While it is recognised that such transmissions may not cover all households, they should be helpful to many families.

### BBC Radio Highland:

6.55am - 7.00am	7.50pm - 8.00pm
12.55pm - 1.00pm	4.55pm - 5.00pm

(In extreme conditions Radio Highland will interrupt Radio Scotland transmissions, usually on the hour, to carry emergency bulletins).

### Nevis Radio:

Normal hourly news bulletins and half - hourly summaries will carry local information on weather, roads and conditions effecting schools.

(In severe conditions normal programmes will be interrupted to carry emergency bulletins).

Radio Stations request that since telephone lines are busy at such times parents should not 'phone in for advice but listen to appropriate broadcasts.

Parents and guardians should ensure that the school and their child/children know of **an alternative address which may be used** by their child/children in an emergency. It is also important that **your child knows where to go** in the event of school closure.

School car contractors will normally inform the school/parents if they feel that the roads are unsafe, and they will be informed by the school if the school is closed early due to bad weather. If you are in doubt about transport arrangements, the school car contractor can be contacted on the following number:

Mrs M. MacDonald      Tel: 01687 462069

If school cars are unable to pick up/drop pupils off at their usual drop off point the school or the car drivers will inform the parents of alternative arrangements. The car drivers will ensure that someone is present to pick up a child before leaving the pick up point. If any problems arise the child should always be returned to the school.

In the event of a daytime closure every effort will be made to contact you. **No child will be sent home from school without somewhere safe to go.** If you have any questions about the above arrangements, please get in touch before the bad weather sets in.

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