

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

Our Plan for dealing with Emergency School Closures

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust adopts the following procedure when making and communicating a decision to close either Bourne Academy or Spalding Academy:

- The default position is that the schools will be open. In the absence of advice to the contrary, it must be assumed that the schools are open;
- The schools will not, normally, publish 'we are open' notices. We will normally contact parents and publish advice only when a decision has been made to close either school.

From time to time, however, weather conditions or forecasts may indicate a very strong likelihood that closure will be considered at some point in the immediate future. The Trust may, if it is felt to be helpful, issue a warning notice to that effect. Such communication could, for example, be of value in reminding parents of our procedure for closure.

- The Executive Headteacher, consulting relevant individuals as appropriate, will determine any closure decision. Where it is possible to make the decision at the very start of the day, it will be made by 7.30am;
- Any closure decision will be posted on the Trust's websites as soon as possible after it is made;
- The Trust will communicate our decision to various bodies including the Lincolnshire County Council, the bus companies, taxi firms and the local radio stations. Parents may wish to listen for the announcements on the local radio in addition to checking the website. Twitter and Facebook will also be updated;
- Once the decision to close has been made, it will hold for the rest of the day. It is simply not practicable to declare that the schools are, after all, to open – whatever the weather – once a closure announcement has been made;
- The Trust will attempt to communicate its decision to other local schools.

The above will apply whenever it is necessary to close the School due to bad weather or some other emergency.

Occasionally, weather conditions might deteriorate rapidly early on in the day but after the point at which students might have arrived at the school site. This will inevitably cause the greatest disruption to families. In such an unfortunate circumstance we will, once a definitive decision has been made, make every attempt to inform parents. As always, the Trust's websites will be the definitive source of information.

Parents are urged to consult the respective school website when in doubt as this will contain the definitive information: ie: if the school is closed, this will be clearly stated – other than that, school will be open and no notice will be posted.