



# Severe Weather Closure Policy

“Everyone who works with children should do what is in the best interests of the child.”

Article 3 United Nations Rights of the Child

## **Severe weather and emergency school closure**

Any decision to close the school as a result of severe weather will be taken in the light of local conditions, an assessment of risk and direct guidance from the Education Department.

The school must always consider the safety of the children, the safety of staff travelling to work and of, course we realise that there is an impact on child care for parents if the school closes.

The decision will be made at 6am if all schools are to close. This decision is made by the Group Director of Education based on reports he receives from the Department for Infrastructure and Transport and Technical Services. This will be communicated through the media; Radio Jersey, Channel 103, the Education Department’s Facebook site and on Trinity’s Facebook page.

If the conditions in the North of the Island are not as bad as the rest of the island it may mean that the Headteacher decides to open the school, this will decision will be based on

- The school site being accessible/safe
- Having a caretaker present to keep the roads, paths and steps clear of ice and snow
- Having the correct adult to pupil ratios if we open
- A member of staff on site who can take responsibility for the leadership of the school if the Leadership Team are unable to get to Trinity
- Having first aiders and key staff with identified responsibility for Safeguarding on site

The Headteacher will look at the information passed on from the Group Director, the police and the departments mentioned above. If some schools are open and some are not he/she will make the decision as quickly as they can in the circumstances – talking to key people in the parish to help them assess the risk. During poor weather we want to ensure first and foremost that children, their families and staff travel to and from school safely.

If we do decide to open there will be a thorough risk assessment of all entrances and exits and a decision will be made re which is the safest entrance to use based on the conditions on the day. All staff will be there to support and ensure that we are safe. Parents have been asked to follow the directions of the staff at this time as a thorough risk assessment will have been completed.

In extreme circumstances we may shut during the day and then parents will be contacted by text and email to ask that you come to school to pick their child up. This will also be communicated via local media. We will not send any child home alone, slips have been send home to ensure the school follows the wishes of parents in severe weather closure.

### **The current position of Trinity School**

Historically, the Northern parishes have been affected in a more significant way than the rest of the island. Therefore, if there is any significant snow it is likely Trinity will be affected.

The school is on a very busy hill, which in the winter and icy conditions is dangerous. The entrance to the school is via steps that may be slippery and a slope that will be slippery in temperatures below freezing. The option of opening the hall door and letting children through the main road entrance could be dangerous if the main road is slippery.

To open the school the head teacher will need at least 6 teachers and 4 support staff. A secretary and a caretaker are required as well as the head teacher or Deputy head teacher for safeguarding. One first aider needs to be on site.

It is unlikely that the headteacher will be able to open the school due to staff not being able to come in and the location of the school on a potentially icy hill.

KM January 2018/ January 2019 February 2021/ March 2022