

Islamiyah Girls High School



Emergency School Closure Policy

Document Control

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Approved by:	Governing Body

Emergency School Closure policy

1. Taking the decision to close the school

The Headteacher and governing body in consultation with other members of staff will take the decision to make an emergency closure when the state of the weather or any other exceptional circumstance make it absolutely necessary in the best interests of the pupils and staff.

However this decision will be supported by the latest and most accurate information available.

The presumption should be in favour of keeping the school open unless, in the headteacher's view, to do so would put the health, safety or welfare of the pupil and/or staff at circumstances and, in particular the following considerations:

- a) Both short and longer term weather information: Further information on this will be sought from the Blackburn with Darwen local authority schools website and BBC local weather updates. Attention should be to ascertaining what would be a safe and appropriate time to send pupils and staff home.
- b) Advice regarding local transport and the safety of local roads: whether buses and trains are running, and whether it is safe to drive on local roads.
- c) Arrangements for pupil safety: The absolute priority is to ensure that the provisions are made for each and every child. Where pupils cannot be collected immediately, they will be kept at school and supervised until collection can take place.
- d) Whether the school is accessible, and has working heating/electrics/water.

The closure or opening of other schools in the proximity will not be the key factor in such decisions, although this may be taken into account, it is the responsibility of all teachers to make every effort to attend for duty.

Advice to parents

Parents are encouraged to prioritise the safety of their children when severe weather conditions pose a potential risk. If parents have concerns about bringing their children to and from school, it is recommended that they err on the side of caution and keep them at home. However, simply because some parents choose to keep their children at home does not automatically mean that the school will be closed. The decision to close the school will be based on various factors and considerations, which will determine whether it is the most sensible and safe decision to make.

Communication Agreements

It is essential that, when there is potential for school closures due to severe weather conditions, we are in a position to communicate quickly and clearly with parents. Any decision to close should be taken as early in the day as possible, or if feasible notification should be provided the evening before. The emergency school closure procedure should be used to communicate the decision. This will involve leaving an appropriate message on the school answerphone, and emailing and/or texting parents/guardians.

Closure during the school day

Emergency Contacts

Safe and speedy dismissal of pupils in the event of an emergency closure depends on school and parents working in partnership.

Precautions

It may be that a parent who collects his/her children offers to give shelter to other children. The agreement of the parents of these pupils should be sought before releasing pupils in this way.

The provision of adequate supervision by members of teaching staff should be made for those pupils who cannot go home immediately and have therefore to remain at school.

Covid 19 Emergency school closure

In the event of a covid related school closure, all students will be required to switch to remote learning via google classroom. The school emergency closure must be in line with the Covid 19 risk assessment September 2021.

Adverse weather conditions and external examinations

In the event of adverse weather, we will remain open for students sitting external examinations, even if the rest of the school is closed.

If weather conditions make it unsafe for you to travel to the exam, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Approved by:

Dated: Mrs. Yaasmin Mubarak
Headteacher
September, 2023

Mubarak Patel
Chair of Governing Body
September, 2023