

The Grove School
Policy for
Severe Weather Conditions

The County Council Transport Unit, have produced a leaflet for all the parents but the information it contains does not include our schools specific response to severe weather and the arrangements we have in place which are: -

The Grove School has a wide catchment area from Alnwick in the middle of the county to Wooler in the west and Duns across in Berwickshire. Staff travel distances that stretch this even further to include Hume near Greenlaw, Chirnside and Eyemouth. Severe weather can be very localised and affect for example Wooler but no-where else, or inland but not the coast and at one time very unusually the coastal strip, particularly Eyemouth and Berwick and no-where else.

The safety of everyone is utmost and risk assessments with regard to travel can only be best made by the parents, transport operators and staff who are in any one particular place at any one time. It is therefore, in most instances, best that decisions to travel to school are made by people who are actually in a specific location.

On very rare occasions the school may be closed. If so the transport operators will be contacted and all parents and staff by a telephone contact system we have in place. A member of staff will telephone all parents to inform them as early in the morning as possible that school will be closed for the day. All staff will be included in this network of phone calls as will all planned visitors to our school. If the children are already at school and the weather deteriorates we will make arrangements for the child/children affected to go home early but only after we have ensured that there is someone at home for them to return to.

Likewise if the weather where a member/s of staff live severely worsens the member/s of staff will go home early as soon as it is practicable to do so.

On one occasion all the children who travel to school on county provided transport were taken home, including those who live in Berwick, this had not happened in this way before. This was a whole County Council decision and such decisions as these may recur in the future.

We appreciate everyone's support with these arrangements and wish to re-assure you that the safety of all the children/young people, staff and multi-professionals is our utmost priority at all times.

Mr LJ Pearson
Chair of Governors

Signed.....
Date.....

Mrs E E Brown
Headteacher

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