



Adverse Weather

Hill of Fearn can have very different weather to the rest of Ross shire so during winter months the Head Teacher must be vigilant in reading adverse weather warnings given from the Council via the email system.

Because some of the pupils are transported to school by minibus, whenever there is a weather warning this will be communicated to the transport company. Positive relationships between school and the transport company will ensure that action is taken at the appropriate time. If the school has to close early the Head Teacher will check with the company that the pupils got home safely.

Home/emergency telephone numbers will be checked in August and again in January to enable records to be kept up to date. These records will be kept electronically in the Phoenix system and a hard copy will be kept in a wallet on the wall beside the phone in the office. As the Council has set up a telephone number for parents to contact the school, the Head Teacher will keep the message up to date, stating whether school is open or closed that day.

There will be no child left alone at school. A member of staff will remain until all pupils have left the grounds.

The safety of pupils is paramount and no risks will be taken by the school or the transport companies.

Risks are not expected to be taken by staff either so while the roads in Hill of Fearn may be road worthy connecting roads to the village may be too risky to drive on.

Council policy states that the Head Teacher makes the decision as to whether school opens or closes. At Hill of Fearn the Head Teacher will base the decision on weather reports, communication with the AA and using professional judgment. S/he will make every effort to keep the school open and running as normal while taking no risks to staff or pupils.

Staff should take no risk to themselves or to their vehicles in coming to school. The Head Teacher will make the decision to close during the school day in consultation with the staff, again taking due regard of road conditions.

If school is to be closed before the start of the school day, staff will be sent a text, if they have given their mobile phone numbers to the Head Teacher, otherwise they should use the emergency telephone number, the website or listen to Moray Firth Radio for news of school closure.

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