ADVERSE WEATHER ARRANGEMENTS

School Closures
There are a number of ways in which you can be informed about a school closure due to adverse weather. Please keep the following information in a safe place.

- Aberdeenshire Council operate an Internet site which includes a section on adverse weather conditions. This is http://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/Apps/Schools-Closures/ this opens the School Closure status page. This site is very efficient and is linked to the local radio stations.

You also have the option to sign up to receive email alerts when your school(s) updates their closure status.

The following radio stations receive updated information every 15 minutes from our website:

Northsound 1
FM 96.9Tel: 01224 337000

Northsound 2

MW 1035 kHz

BBC Radio Scotland
FM 92.4 - 94.7MW 810 kHz

North East Community Radio
FM 97.1 - 106.4Tel: 01467 632878

Original 106 FM
Tel: 01224 293800

Twitter
http://twitter.com/aberdeenshire

Schools Information Line. Aberdeenshire Council also have a telephone service which can be used if there is a risk of closure due to adverse weather.

Tel: Dial **0870 054 4999** then the school's PIN number **021630. (Durris School)**

Press 1 to hear your school's message about the adverse weather – for example, whether or not the school is to close or if transport arrangements have been affected.

Press 4 to enter the pin number for another school within the authority. Parents may have children who attend different schools. This option allows you to move from one school's messaging service to another without having to dial in again. If you cannot get through first time, please do not put this number on redial. This will only lead to the line being busier. Please note: Call charges to the School Information Line will depend on your contract with your telephone service provider, for example, calling from your home telephone may differ in price from calling from your mobile phone

Additional telephone numbers

Public Transport Unit (9am – 5pm) 01224 665194
Education Offices (9am – 5pm) Stonehaven Area Office– 01569 766960

Contact Details

- **It is vital that parents keep us informed of up to date telephone contact numbers – home, work and local emergency contact(s) so that we can be sure of reaching you in any emergency situation.**

Additional notes from Aberdeenshire Council

We want to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure the safety of children at all times. These guidelines outline the procedures for dealing with school closures during bad weather or other emergency.

Parental Role

We would like you to:

- Ensure your child wears appropriate outdoor clothes throughout the winter.
- Decide whether it is safe for your child to travel to school in bad weather, either by school transport or on foot.
- Provide the school with information about emergency contacts to whom your child can be sent at short notice if you are not available. Also tell the Head Teacher about any changes to this information and to your daytime contact details.
- Provide the school with a bad weather address within safe walking distance of the school.

Also:

- If school transport is not running please don't take your child – or other children – to school yourself unless it is safe for you to do so. You will be responsible for ensuring that the children you took to school are transported home again and therefore need to be available in the event that the school has to close early due to deteriorating weather conditions.
- In difficult weather conditions pupils should not wait any longer than 15 minutes past the normal pick up time before returning home. In case the transport doesn't arrive please make sure you have made alternative arrangements for your child.
- If your child travels by school transport you are responsible for their safety *to and from the pick up/drop off point* whether they use school transport or a public service vehicle.

School transport contractors have been told not to allow children to walk home alone from drop-off points *under any circumstances* during extreme weather conditions. If you can't meet or arrange for your child to be met, the school transport will return them to a designated location.

Public service vehicles – drivers of these vehicles follow a specified route and keep to timetables – they cannot make special arrangements.

When will schools be closed?

Head Teachers decide if and when schools should close due to bad weather or another emergency. In bad weather they will decide this after receiving information about local weather conditions. This decision can be made during any time, day or night.

During bad weather some staff may not be able to get to school – so the school may have to close because there are too few teachers present. Sometimes only part of the school will be closed or only some of the pupils will be dismissed early.

If you are concerned about local weather conditions contact the school. You may wish to collect your child yourself and are free to do so provided you make arrangements with the school.

Nursery, Primary and Special Schools

If your child attends a Nursery, Primary or Special School, which is to close early, the school will contact you by telephone. If this is not possible the school will contact your named 'emergency contact'.

No child will be released from school without contact being made. It is important contact details are current and the people named are available – particularly during bad weather.

What education might my child be missing?

Some parents and pupils worry that important work is missed because the school is closed or conditions make it difficult to attend. But the *safety and welfare of children must take precedence* when making judgements about travelling to school in bad weather.

At Durris School, pupils and/or parents can access work for the children on GLOW during bad weather school closures.