

Wadebridge Primary Academy Emergency Closures

We recognise that the decision to close a school in the event of an emergency (e.g. snow, flooding, no water or heating) significantly impacts upon you, as parents and guardians. This document outlines the agreed procedure which all schools are asked to follow and offers advice to parents on the key things to consider, both before and after the decision to close has been made.

It is essential that we communicate our closure plan to all parents, and equally that all parents familiarise themselves with the agreed plan.

Guidance Given to Schools

Guidance and procedures are sent to all schools on an annual basis, usually at the start of the autumn term. To prevent the possibility of fraudulent school closures, schools are required to follow a verification process before providing school closure information. Schools are then asked to:

- Undertake a risk assessment, using common sense to determine whether it is feasible for children and staff to remain in the school; and if not, what subsequent risks could arise by sending them home. Before school hours start, schools are also asked to assess if the roads are safe for children to travel to school.
- Contact the Chair of Governors to validate the Head's decision.
- Notify Cornwall Council and the three local radio stations (BBC Radio Cornwall, Heart FM and Pirate FM). Providing the school follow the agreed procedure, each of the radio stations have all agreed to broadcast details of all school closures.

Wadebridge Primary Academy Closure Procedure

If the decision is made to close the Academy, we will notify parents via our text messaging system, radio alerts and via our website.

Should you need to contact us directly, please be aware that the line(s) may be busy or unavailable when a large number of parents are calling at the same time.

A full list of all schools closed in Cornwall can be found at:
<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2295>

You may also find the following websites useful:

Cornwall Snow Advice www.cornwall.gov.uk/snow

Met Office www.metoffice.gov.uk

Environment Agency www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Devon & Cornwall Police www.devon-cornwall.police.uk