



## Bad Weather and

## Emergency Closures

As we approach the winter months, I thought it timely to remind you of what procedures we have in place in the event of bad weather which might affect school buses due to flooding or snow, or in the event of an emergency school closure. As a general rule, I will do everything possible to keep the school open, provided it is safe to do so. Our main priority is the safety of every student and member of staff who works at the school.

### General Points

- In the event of an emergency closure, please ensure that your child can get home safely or has made previously agreed arrangements to stay with a trusted friend's family or another member of your family. We will assume that all students can enter their house safely **unless they tell us that they cannot**. Please ensure that your child knows what to do in the event of an emergency closure. We will look after any students who have nowhere to go or are "stranded" and inform the parents, while seeking to return them home safely to the best of our ability recognising that it is an emergency situation.
- The office staff cannot telephone every student's parents when buses are called early and sometimes our switchboard is jammed by incoming parental calls, which means that lines are not available, or students are at home before we could ring in any case.
- Please notify school if you cannot get your child to school because of poor weather conditions.
- **We will always try to run external examinations wherever possible and prioritise examination groups.**
- We ask that students are dressed for the winter months with a suitable school uniform coat.

### Outside School Hours

- In the event of the decision being made to close the school fully or partially, we will make every effort to put this information on the school website [www.uvhs.uk](http://www.uvhs.uk) as soon as possible.
- Decisions to close will be made as early as possible in the morning. School will liaise with the bus companies, minibus contractors and taxis as far as possible regarding travel conditions.
- We will also inform you via the school website and the radio stations if the school is likely to close for more than one day and when it will re-open.
- Please listen to Radio Cumbria, (e.g. 96.1FM, 95.2FM or 104.2FM, or South 837 or North 756AM AM) and Heart North Lancashire and Cumbria (formerly Bay Radio) (e.g. 96.9FM, 102.3FM or 103.2FM) which we use to communicate with families in these circumstances. The Mail (formerly the North West Evening Mail) website [www.nwemail.co.uk](http://www.nwemail.co.uk) may also have information.
- You can also find information about school closures on the BBC Radio Cumbria website [www.bbc.co.uk/radiocumbria](http://www.bbc.co.uk/radiocumbria). (Please be aware that in order to receive the latest update on closures you will have to log onto the website from scratch rather than opening it as your saved favourite.)

### During the School Day

- If the school has to close during the school day, we will ask Radio Cumbria, Heart North Lancashire and Cumbria and The Mail to announce this.
- We will also use the school e-mail and texting system to inform you of any closure, as well as the school website [www.uvhs.uk](http://www.uvhs.uk).
- If the bus companies advise us of deteriorating weather conditions, we will call the affected buses early and try to notify you. Please note that the buses are owned by private companies and operate through School Transport in Carlisle (01228 226044) and are not under the control of the school.
- Students may be asked to use mobile phones in an emergency to inform you of what is happening.

Clearly, we cannot anticipate every emergency that may happen, but if we follow the above procedures and if you talk to your child about what to do in such emergencies, I feel confident that everyone will remain safe and secure.