

# Emergency Closing

January 2024

Policy Document

**Belclare National School**



# Emergency Closing

S.N. AN CROÍ RÓ NAOFA, BELCLARE,

## **Rationale:**

The need for the school to produce a policy on emergency closures in recent years is primarily due to:

- Inclement weather, such as heavy snowfalls, high winds etc.
- Building programmes and alterations to the design of the school, which have necessitated unscheduled closures on Health and Safety grounds in recent years
- Electricity supply being cut off.
- Water.

## **Relationship to School Ethos:**

Belclare National School strives to provide a child friendly, secure environment catering for all the needs of all students as far as is practicable and where respect is fostered in a culture which values diversity and difference.

## **Aims and Objectives:**

- To provide for the welfare of all pupils while on the school premises
- To ensure a safe, child friendly school environment is available to all children
- To comply with Health and Safety legislation

## **Procedures**

### **Weather warnings:**

In the event of a significant weather warning & following instruction from the DES where a red weather warning is in place, the Principal shall consult with the Chairperson of the BoM as soon as is feasible, and a decision will be made as to whether it is in the interests of all parties to close the school. The school reserves the right to close during an orange weather warning if conditions are particularly unsafe locally.

If it is decided to close the school, the school authorities will contact families by text or email to notify of the school closure.

All bus operators servicing the school will be contacted by the Principal or another designated person, confirming that the school will not be opening. If the weather warning is prolonged over a number of days and the school is closed indefinitely, parents and bus operators will be informed of re-opening dates through the school Aladdin system by email.

### **Disconnection of Services:**

Where water or electricity services to the school are to be disconnected, a week's notification is normally given to the school authorities. This enables the school to furnish the parent body with the relevant advance warning of such closures via the school Aladdin system by email.

### **Critical Incident/Death:**

In the event a critical incident or the death of a staff member or student. The school will be guided by the advice of NEPS, the HSE or an Garda Síochána as appropriate. A critical incident policy is in place.

## **Roles and Responsibilities:**

Emergency closures in the school place particular responsibilities on various personnel within the school chain of command;

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- Positive school community feedback
- Compliance with Health and Safety legislation
- Maintaining a safe school environment for all staff, pupils and parents

## **Ratification and Communication:**

This policy was reviewed in January 2024 and will be reviewed in January 2026.

## **Implementation and Review:**

The redrafted policy has been ratified by the Board of Management in January 2024 and will be reviewed in November 2026.

Signed

**Sarah Molloy**

**10/01/2024**

Chairperson

Date

**Agnes Martyn**

**10/01/2024**

Principal

Date

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