

# **Tubber N.S.**

## **Emergency Closures Policy**

### **Introduction:**

The school policy on emergency closures was drafted as a whole school exercise, involving parents, staff and Board of Management. It was circulated to the entire school community in Tubber N.S. and will be posted on the school website in due course.

### **Rationale:**

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

- Closures necessary on Health and Safety Grounds e.g. burst water pipe/interruption to water supply/epidemic
- Inclement weather, such as heavy snowfalls, high winds/flooding.
- Interruption to electrical supply to school by E.S.B.

### **Relationship to School Ethos:**

Tubber N.S. 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:**

#### **Heavy Snowfall:**

In the event of a heavy snowfall, the Principal shall consult with the Chairperson of the B.O.M. 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.

If it is decided to close the school, the school authorities will contact the local radio station, Clare FM, and request that regular announcements be carried on the airways that the school will not be opening.

If the snowfall is prolonged over a number of days and the school is closed indefinitely, parents will be informed of re-opening dates through the local radio station and text a parent

### **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 circular or text. It is not the policy of the school to confirm such closures through the local Radio station.

### **High Winds/Thunderstorms:**

The procedures in place for heavy snowfall are generally replicated in the event of storms/lightning i.e. parents are contacted via local radio or textAparent and informed that the school will remain closed. If the school has already opened and is in operation when high winds etc. occur and remaining on the premises is a risk to all - teachers will remain on the premises until all the children have been collected by either parents/guardians.

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

In some instances the school might remain closed for pupils in the event of a critical incident or death of a staff member, B.O.M. member or pupil. Parents are informed of such closures either by circular or text. In this particular instance, the school may remain open to staff and B.O.M, if issues such as church services, Guards of honour, readings or counselling is required. Refer to Critical Incident Policy.

### **Roles and Responsibilities:**

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

- B.O.M.
- Principal

- Teachers

**Success Criteria:**

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

**Ratification and Communication:**

This policy will be in operation in the school from September 2010 having been communicated by the then B.O.M. by means of circular following ratification at the school B.O.M. Meeting in June 2010. Policy will be available on the website.

**Implementation and Review:**

The policy will be reviewed in the light of unplanned events that lead to unscheduled school closures, but not later than 2012/2013.