

## GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

### TRAVELLING TO SCHOOL DURING ADVERSE WEATHER

#### Winter weather arrangements

It is the responsibility of parents or carers to decide if a pupil should attempt to travel to school, by transport or on foot, in adverse weather conditions. The Education Authority encourages full attendance at school but in severe weather conditions the safety of pupils is much more important. Parents and pupils are often concerned that important examinations may be missed, but this should not over-ride good judgment. Schools normally make alternative arrangements for missed school examinations.

The school updates its procedures for adverse weather closure annually, therefore please ensure that we have an alternative address, as close as possible to the school, which may be used by your children in emergencies.

We have an established system of communication with parents and transport operators and we seek to ensure that parents are fully informed of the arrangements.

- Parents are asked to use the phone-line as the main source of information as it is always the first communication channel that we update. To do so, please telephone **0800 564 2272** and when asked enter the Culloden Academy pin number: **041000**
- The main Highland Council website [www.highland.gov.uk](http://www.highland.gov.uk) will also carry details of any school closures while we await the launch of a new school closures website.
- **D and E Coaches** run a Facebook page but the school does not directly upload information to it.
- Finally, when weather conditions are poor local radio stations issue news and weather bulletins on traffic conditions and school closures. Transmissions may not cover all households and may be subject to re-scheduling but should be helpful. Parents are advised to remain “tuned in” to ongoing road weather, or school information updates. **BBC Radio Highland** broadcasts updates at 6.55 am – 7.00 am, 12.55 pm – 1.00 pm, 4.55 pm – 5.00 pm and 7.50 pm – 8.00 pm. In extreme conditions Radio Highland will interrupt Radio Scotland transmissions, usually on the hour, to carry emergency bulletins.

#### For pupils using school transport

Parents should advise their children on how long they should wait at the pick-up point for their transport. This will depend on the prevailing weather conditions and the availability of shelter at the pick-up point. During adverse weather conditions no pupil is expected to wait longer than twenty minutes past the normal “pick-up” time.

Parents should note differences between contract vehicles and public service vehicles. Drivers of contract vehicles are advised not to drop off children where there is any doubt that they may not safely reach home or other place of shelter. Drivers of public service vehicles must travel their normal routes and cannot make special provision for the individual pupils.

Where parents are concerned about weather conditions at “drop-off” points, they should contact the school as early as possible. When weather conditions are poor, parents should arrange to have children met at the “drop-off” point, especially where public service transport is used.