



School Closures Policy

Agreed by Governors September 2024

Mission Statement:

This policy is carried out within the context and spirit of the school's Mission Statement. It supports and reinforces the aims of Jarrow Cross Church of England School, valuing all children equally and as individuals.

"Jarrow Cross Church of England Primary School provides a caring, Christian environment, where everyone is welcome, and given the opportunity to develop to their full potential."

Reasons for closure

Schools may be closed for a number of reasons including:

- Fire / arson
- Loss of heating
- Loss of power
- Loss of water supply
- Gas leaks
- Flooding
- Storm damage
- Heavy snow
- Criminal damage
- Other health & safety issues
- National Pandemic/Lockdown

Decision to close the school

It is ultimately the head teacher's responsibility to close the school. Unless in the instance of a National Lockdown in which case the school will be guided by the Government.

1. Head teacher (or their deputy) to be informed of the major incident as soon as possible.
2. Head teacher to establish who is safe and who is not.
3. Head teacher / relevant site staff to try to prevent closure if practically possible.
4. Head teacher to decide to close the school based on the relevant information

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Heating

It's a requirement that your building should have a minimum temperature of 16 degrees Celsius. There is no maximum requirement but should be based on the particular circumstances.

Heating engineers will be available during winter months (Monday to Friday) from 7:00 am. It is a requirement of your caretaker to check the heating system for any faults. Please report as soon as possible any problems with the heating to the out of hour's service. Telephone 0191 455 6111

It is envisaged that this service will prevent a closure in some cases

Low temperatures or changes in times should continue to be reported during normal school hours to the energy conservation team on (0191) 424 7466

Reporting a closure

1. During normal school hours (8:00 am to 16.30 Monday to Friday) :

- Asset Management at South Shields Town Hall. They will send an all education staff e-mail & contact the press office who will be informed of the reason for closure, number of pupils affected and likelihood of when the school will re-open.

education.repairs@southtyneside.gov.uk

Contact : Collette Elrick telephone 0191 424 6661

Collette.Elrick@southtyneside.gov.uk

- Other persons who may be required to be contacted including delivery drivers, cleaning staff, etc.
- Updating school web sites, placing notes on gates, etc.

2. Out of normal school hours (16.30 to 8.00 am Monday to Friday, all day Saturday & Sunday) :

- Neighbourhood Services will provide heating engineers during the winter period from 7:00 am, Monday to Friday. The caretaker having checked the boiler in the morning should report the problem as soon as possible.

Contact : Middlefields Security gatehouse telephone 0191 455 6111 during this period.

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- The local radio stations provide a service of news bulletins informing of school closures. Please contact the following radio stations giving the required password - Metro radio, Radio Newcastle, Sun FM, Capital NE.
- Other persons who may be required to be contacted including delivery drivers, cleaning staff, etc.
- Updating school web sites, texting service, placing notes on gates, etc.

National Lockdown

In the case of a National Lockdown parents will be informed as quickly as possible via text, letter and Dojo. The reopening of school will be guided by information received from the Government.

Reporting re-opening of the school

1. Please confirm that the school has re-opened to Asset Management 01914246661

Any other queries contact: Stuart McConvill telephone 01914247240
stuart.mcconvill@southtyneside.gov.uk

The school website will host information for parents about any closures and re-opening. The site will also host work for children to complete at home during any closure.

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