

**ADVICE REGARDING SCHOOL CLOSURE IN ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS
OR OTHER EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

Our first priority is to ensure the safety of our students. Any decisions made regarding school closure or transport will be based on this.

When severe weather conditions develop overnight or early morning a decision will be taken as to whether or not Special School transport and the Yellow Bus Service will run. This decision will be based on local weather conditions, weather bulletins and Police advice. As this is an operational matter the decision will be made by Calderdale Transport Services.

Due to the unpredictable nature of the English climate the weather can change significantly throughout the day. The situation is further compounded by the fact that transport services will not be able to undertake early return journeys until they have the necessary availability of drivers and escorts as some of these personnel have other duties during the day.

I am certain that parents will continue to be supportive of decisions made for safety reasons, even if this does cause some domestic inconvenience. The last thing any of us would want to happen would be a group of our students, including some of a delicate nature or with a serious medical condition, being stranded in a minibus.

Please find details overleaf of arrangements should it be necessary for transport to be cancelled or school to close.

School Closure

In the event of school being closed for the day, a text message will be sent via the Teachers2Parents text service, a message will be also be left on the Parent Hotline as soon as such a decision has been made (7.00 to 7.30 a.m. onwards). **It is vital that we have an up to date mobile number for the person who is the first priority on the data sheet as this is the person who the message will be sent to.** We are unable to send any other person the message.

Parent Hotline tel. no. - 08447 707576 - please use School ID number – 55447 when requested

Parents/carers of all students whether travelling on Calderdale White minibus, Metro Yellow bus, private contractors or independent travel should ring the Parent Hotline.

The school website will be updated as close to 7.30 am as possible –

www.ravenscliffe.calderdale.sch.uk

and information will also be placed on the Calderdale Council website –

www.calderdale.gov.uk/education/closures/index.html and then click on “Schools” in the Menu box

BBC RADIO LEEDS (Frequency: Medium Wave 774 or FM 92.4 or 95.3), and THE PULSE (FM 97.5 and 102.5) will also broadcast a detailed list of school closures in the event of bad weather.

Transport Services at Battinson Road have asked that direct requests through their office should not be made to enable telephone lines to remain free so that they can deal appropriately with all operational emergencies during bad weather.

Independent Travellers and Yellow Bus Users should contact the **Parent Hotline on 08447 707576** then enter the **School ID number – 55447** to listen to a recorded message which will be updated when necessary, A text message will also be sent to the first contact via teacher to parent text service. If school is closed to students please do not send your son/daughter to school.

If students have been transported or travelled to school in the morning and the weather deteriorates significantly throughout the day, **you are requested to telephone the Parent Hotline, check the school website which will be updated, or as a last resort, if you have extenuating circumstances, contact the School** for advice.

Your co-operation with this request is greatly appreciated as you can imagine the staff time and difficulty involved in attempting to contact the parents of 139 students.

If school has been closed, check either Parent Hotline, School website or ring after 3pm when a message will have been left on the answerphone, for an update on the position regarding the following day.

As concerned parents and carers I feel sure you will support the school in any decision made regarding transport in difficult weather conditions, in the knowledge that such a decision has been taken to minimise the risk to students and staff at the school.