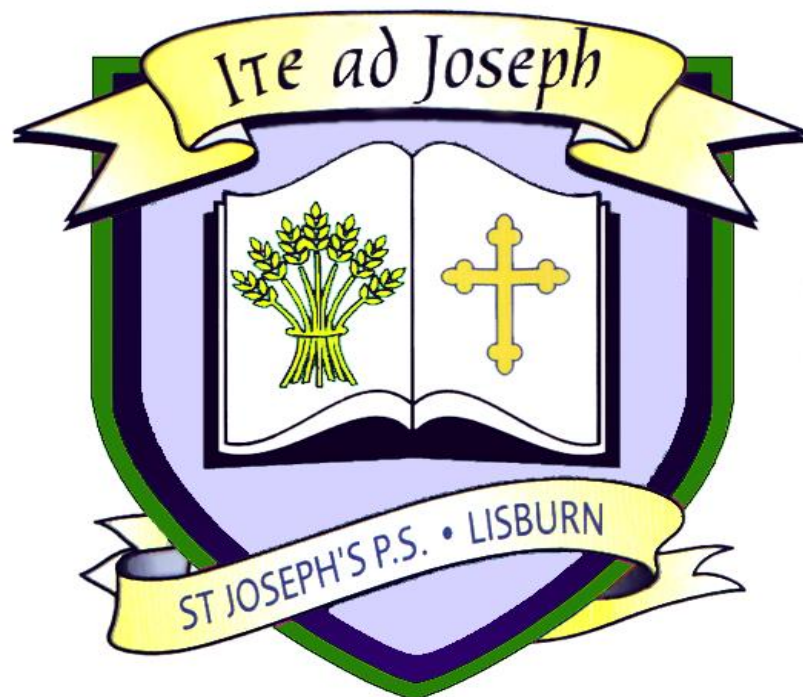


St. Joseph's Primary School, Lisburn



Adverse Weather Policy

This policy sets out the school's action plan for adverse weather. In times of extreme weather, such as a heavy snowfall, the principal and Senior Leadership Team will consider the checklist below to see if it is necessary to close the school

The Principal and Senior Leadership Team will begin the process by answering these questions related to the safety of pupils and staff:

1. can pupils and staff access the school building safely?
2. can pupils and staff be evacuated in an emergency?
3. in an emergency, could the Emergency Services access the school?
4. is the area designated for disembarkation from transport safe for pupils?
5. Transport – can buses, meal deliveries, etc., reach the school, particularly if the unforeseen circumstances affect a large proportion of pupils?
6. If a limited number of staff and pupils can attend, is the Pupil Teacher Ratio acceptable? An acceptable PTR would be 1:30
7. Have local weather forecasts and road conditions, including those for areas from which staff will be travelling, been declared hazardous?

Having considered each question carefully, the Senior Leadership team will complete a Risk assessment based on the answers. They will make their decision based on answers of more than 1 'No' to any of the 7 questions

If a decision is made to close

- Here in St. Joseph's P.S. we have a text message service to inform parents if the school is closed and again when the decision is taken to re-open
- All parent contacts will be sent a text message
- Radio Stations – Radio Ulster will also be informed
- We will use our twitter feed to communicate the closure

Updated November 2016