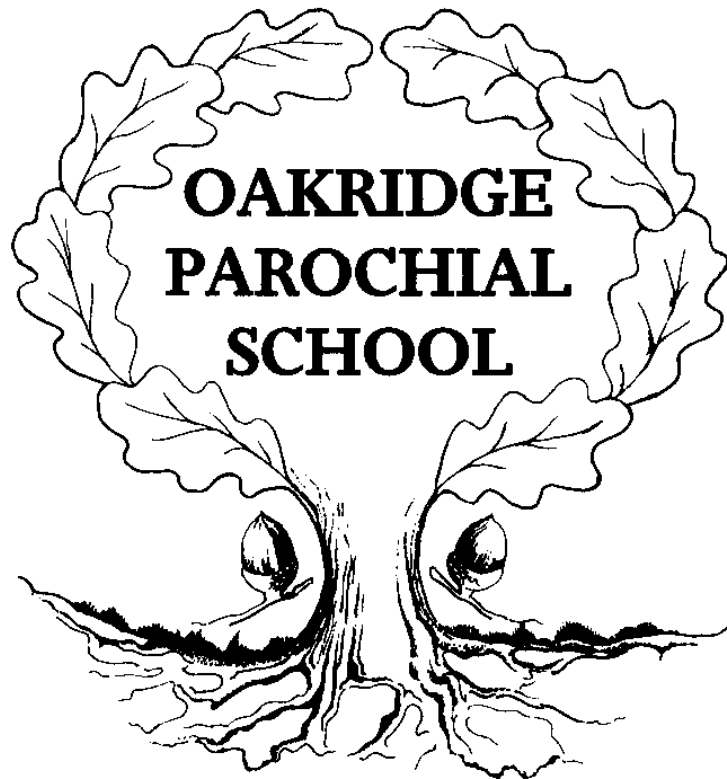


OAKRIDGE PAROCHIAL SCHOOL

EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURE POLICY



Emergency School Closures

The key objective during the worst weather or other emergency conditions is to open the school on a site that is safe and adequately staffed. The responsibility for deciding to close the school lies with the head teacher in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of Governors. The decision to close would be made after assessing the risks and taking into consideration local circumstances (for example, the area around the school is not gritted by the local authority).

The following criteria will be considered prior to making a decision:

- Can the site be made safe?
- Will we have sufficient staff?
- Is the weather predicted to worsen during the day?

Communication

Should the decision be made to close the school the following methods of communication will be made:

- GCC informed. Please check the Gloucestershire school and library Closure page on the GCC website <https://closures.gloucestershire.gov.uk/>
- Local radio informed

Please do not call the school to ask – this will block the line when we are trying to make arrangements/ contact parents and staff.

Keeping the school open

Where appropriate schools can temporarily amend their times of opening and closing to allow some level of educational provision to pupils. If applicable, the school would use this flexibility to allow the school to open at some point through the day when staff are more able to travel or to provide them with greater time arrive at school.

We would like to create a team of volunteers who would be prepared to come into school to help clear paths and the area of road around the school. If you are willing to help, please let the school office know.

A risk assessment will be made at playtimes and lunchtimes as to whether the village green is safe for play.

In poor conditions parents and staff travelling to school by car are advised to park on the road at the top of the village and walk down to the school.

Members of staff are asked to make every effort to get to school although in severe conditions they must make a judgement about the safety of travelling.

Before and after school opening hours parents/carers are responsible for ensuring their children are safe on the village green and surrounding areas.

Closures when pupils are already at school will happen only as a last resort. The head teacher will make the decision in consultation with the Chair or Vice Chair of the Governors.

Agreed by the governors at their meeting on 18th November 2014