



**School Closure due to Inclement Weather/Emergencies  
Guidance for Parents  
UPDATE January 2018**

I will always try to keep school open but in the event of disruption caused by snow or other emergencies the prime concern of the school must always be the safety of the pupils and staff.

In the event of extreme inclement weather, such as heavy snowfall over night and anticipated continuation into the next day, or extreme icy conditions, St. Joseph's will follow the procedures below:

After consultation with the Leadership Team, Site Manager, our minibus drivers, Chair of Governors and Heads from other Loftus schools, I will make a decision as to whether school needs to close. I will make that decision by 7.45am if that is possible. I need to have sufficient information before making a decision.

I will only close the school if local roads are closed or if sufficient staff are unable to get to school.

Please be patient as it does take a certain amount of time for this decision to then be shared with you. The following systems are used:

You will receive a 'Marvellous Me ' message if you are signed up to it.

There will be a posting on our school Facebook page.

There will be a posting on our school website page:

[www.stjosephsloftus.co.uk](http://www.stjosephsloftus.co.uk)

Local radio

Redcar and Cleveland's website

Children who travel on the minibuses have been given contact numbers for additional information.

**If you are not informed of a closure then school is open as usual.**

**If you are not informed that school minibuses are unable to run, then minibuses are running. They may be a little late if travel is slower than usual.**

If school is open and there is snow, the decision as to whether or not to send a pupil to school must be at the discretion of the parents, taking into account factors such as local road conditions and the availability of child-care. School would not then be able to authorise such absences.

When ice or snow hamper movement around the School, in order to minimise the risk of injury to staff, pupils and parents, the caretaker will ensure that all paths and steps around the school site are gritted or cleared of snow as soon as is practicable.

In the event of snowy weather, please send children to school in wellingtons or boots. We will let children enjoy playtimes outside as long as there is no compacted ice. There will be one section of the field where children can throw snowballs if they wish. Snowballs must not be thrown on the playground or the other field. Staff need to monitor this carefully.

Prior to pupils being allowed to play outside in the grounds they will be warned by their teachers not to throw snowballs near windows, not to make slides on footpaths and to take extra care when playing in the snow. Pupils will only play outside under the supervision of an authorised member of staff.

