

## WEATHER WARNINGS FROM MET ÉIREANN

Schools should monitor weather forecasts in order to be prepared for any severe weather which may affect the school. During periods of severe weather schools should assess the situation. Schools should be prepared, keep themselves informed and remain vigilant.

In recent years Met Éireann has introduced colour coded weather warnings as follows:

- Status Yellow – be aware
- Status Orange – be prepared
- Status Red – take action

Schools should respond appropriately to such warnings using the above guidance and the link <http://www.education.ie/en/Schools-Colleges/Information/National-Emergencies-Public-Health-Issues/Schools-and-Severe-Weather.pdf>

BUS ÉIREANN WILL NOT OPERATE SCHOOL BUSES IN AN AREA AFFECTED BY A **STATUS RED WEATHER** WARNING, OR TRAVEL INTO AN AFFECTED AREA, FOR THE DURATION OF THAT WARNING.

## GENTLE REMINDER TO PARENTS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN: CHECK ON YOUR ELDERLY RELATIVES AND NEIGHBOURS



If it's difficult for you to get around it will be impossible for them.

1. Phone them or call around.
2. Make sure they have enough fuel, food supplies and medications.
3. If in doubt call the Gardaí and ask them to check.

You can get more information from:

- [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)
- [www.emergencyplanning.ie](http://www.emergencyplanning.ie)
- [www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie)
- [www.met.ie](http://www.met.ie)
- [www.buseireann.ie/StatusRed](http://www.buseireann.ie/StatusRed)

# BE WINTER-READY



## FOR PARENTS AND SCHOOLS

**You**  
**Your School**  
**and the Winter**

OEP Phone: 01-237 3800  
e-mail: [oepe@defence.ie](mailto:oepe@defence.ie)



[www.winterready.ie](http://www.winterready.ie)  
[@emergencyIE](https://twitter.com/emergencyIE)



 An Roinn Cosanta  
Department of Defence  
An Oifig um Pleanáil Eigeandála  
Office of Emergency Planning

 AN ROINN DEPARTMENT OF  
OIDEACHAIS EDUCATION  
AGUS SCILEANNA AND SKILLS

## BE PREPARED, BE INFORMED BE VIGILANT

Schools should conduct a pre-event evaluation of what should be, or could be, in place to ensure the opening of the school in the event of severe weather. Areas for consideration are maintenance of school premises and utilities, salting and gritting and transport to and from school. Access in the school to a battery operated radio and flashlights should be put in place.

Schools should ensure that every member of staff is clear as to their role and responsibilities during severe weather, including in the event of a school closure. A member of staff should be assigned to monitor weather conditions and to contact the principal response agencies and school transport services where required.

Included in the school's plan for severe weather should be the proposed responses and roles which will apply in the event of a Status Red weather warning from Met Éireann.

Parents should ensure that they are familiar with their school plans and have their own arrangements in place in the event of a school closure or school transport disruption due to severe weather.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Schools should ensure to have the relevant contact details of the principal response agencies for their area, including:

- An Garda Síochána
- Fire Brigade
- Ambulance Service
- Local Authorities

Schools should also have contact details for the transport services serving their school. These details should be checked regularly and kept up-to-date.

Most schools use a text messaging service to communicate with parents and staff, who should ensure the school has their up-to-date details. Local radio, the school's website or social media may also be useful to alert parents and students to school conditions and closure should this arise.

### **Remember**

- Develop a Plan
- Know your Contact Details
- Prepare your School
- Ensure everyone knows their role
- Stay Safe!

## CLOSING A SCHOOL

The decision to close a school rests with the school management authority taking into consideration the full guidance and direction available from the principal response agencies, especially An Garda Síochána. Any decision to close is taken in the interest of child safety, having assessed the local risks and having consulted, as appropriate, with school transport operators. Some of the issues that schools take into account include:

- conditions in the school itself
- the capacity of the school to ensure the health and safety of students whilst in school
- the ability of parents, students, staff and school transport services to safely negotiate local road conditions to reach the school
- guidance and direction from the principal response agencies

Guidance on time lost due to unforeseen closures as a result of severe weather is set out in circular 16/2014 which is available on the Department's website [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie).

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# You, Your School and the Winter