

## OBERON HIGH SCHOOL SNOW/FLOOD POLICY

### Issues:

- Snow falls are unpredictable in nature, making it difficult to make decisions in relation to road closures and sending students home. Snow may fall prior to school commencing, or after school has commenced.
- A number of stakeholders are involved: Council who may close roads based on advice from their staff; the bus company; Oberon Public School and St Joseph's Catholic School, who utilise the same bus services.
- The Principal's duty of care extends to employees and students.
- Changes to the WHS laws means that employees are no longer covered by Workers Compensation if involved in an accident whilst travelling to school and the chance of this is increased if snow or ice is predicted.
- This policy is a guide and cannot cover all situations that may arise. Decisions will need to be made on the day based on the best information available at the time and in the interests of the welfare of students and staff.
- Where there is doubt over conditions, the Principal will consider the safety of staff and students in making a decision.



### Procedures:

#### Snow before school:

- Council website is updated from 7am on. Police advise on road closures between 4pm and 7 am. Council also advertise closures on radio stations 2LT and 2BS. Principal will contact Council or police to seek advice on closures, contact the bus company and make a decision as to whether the school is open. This decision will be discussed with the Director NSW Public Schools Bathurst and notice given via 2BS.
- Staff unable to attend school due to road closures should advise the Deputy Principal or Principal. If possible they should report to their nearest school.

#### Snow during school hours:

- Parents who live out of town will be requested to provide advice in writing at the beginning of the year, of an alternative home in town their child can go to, in the event of road closures and buses not being able to deliver students. The school will attempt to advise parents if buses are unable to deliver students home. Parents will also be required to advise the school in writing whether in the case of buses taking students home early, if would rather collect their child from school, or have their child go to a nominated house in town.
- Parents who live in town will be requested to advise the school if: their child is to go home on the bus; walk home or remain at school to be collected by a parent.

- In cases where students are to go home early, an assembly will be called in the school hall, where all students and staff are to attend.
- The Principal will meet with staff to ascertain which staff should leave school, and those are able to safely stay in order to provide adequate supervision for students. Where it is safe to do so, staff should remain at school until the buses have left.
- The Deputy Principal and Head Teachers will ensure that students are safely escorted from the hall to the buses as they arrive. Students who live in town will remain at school, unless the parent requests otherwise.
- Office staff will maintain a list of actions nominated by parents, with phone numbers, and call parents to advise them that buses have gone home early. The Principal or nominee will contact 2BS to advise of the situation and contact the Director NSW Public Schools Bathurst.

### **“Black Ice” in car park or footpaths**

- In conditions where ice is likely to form in the car park, the Principal or nominee should inspect the car park. If ice is present, the car park should be closed by a tape and warning sign. Staff will need to park on the roadside.
- Should ice form on the entry footpath, this should be taped off with a warning sign and an alternative path across the lawn be marked by cones to the front entrance of the school. In these situations, students are to remain in the buildings until conditions are safe.
- In cases where staff deems it unsafe to travel to school due to dangerous roads, they should contact the Deputy Principal or Principal as soon as possible, advising them of their intentions.