
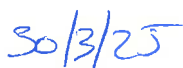

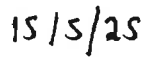
 Killorglin Community Childcare Centre CLG		SEVERE WEATHER CLOSURES POLICY			
POLICY NO.:	GP No. 7	REV. NO.:	8	REV. DATE:	01.04.2025
PREPARED BY:	 Centre Manager			Date:	
APPROVED BY:	 Board of Directors			Date:	

Closing Scamps and Scholars due to bad or other excessive weather (normally cold weather incorporating snow, ice, etc.) is a difficult decision under the best of circumstances. The management will always execute such a decision based upon the best information available and the best interests and health and safety of the children, their families and the staff.

Scamps and Scholars will adopt the following steps in the event of severe weather requiring **full closure**:

- In the event of severe weather where it is currently the case or pre-determined that travel conditions are or will be difficult, where possible a decision will be made by the Centre's management on the evening before opening, to close the centre the next day. **This would be indicated by a "red weather warning" by Met Eireann and in such circumstances, and for health and safety reasons, the center will close for the duration of the warning or beyond if it is untenable to open immediately after the expiration of the red warning.**
- **A full assessment of the condition of the center will be undertaken prior to the center's reopening.**
- Parents will be notified via SMS text as per the mobile/work numbers supplied by parents on their child's registration form.
- Notice of the closure will also be put up on our web-site www.scampsandscholars.ie and our Facebook page.
- In the event of full closure, as determined by the Centre's management, **no** fees will apply for the day(s) (or part of) of closure.
- Please note circumstances may dictate that the decision to close may not be able to be made until the morning but the same steps will be followed thereafter.

During a Met Eireann yellow and orange warning, a decision will be made whether the center can operate safely through such warnings by the officers of the Board and the manager. The priority will always be the health and safety of the children, parents and staff however every effort will be made to keep the center operating where possible.

It may be challenging during such weather events to operate this center at 100% occupancy and in such circumstances the protocol outlined below will be followed.

Scamps and Scholars will adopt the following steps in the event of severe weather requiring **partial closure**:

In the event that some of our staff are not able to attend Scamps and Scholars due to severe weather, the Centre will attempt to keep the Centre running at full capacity where possible.

However, in the event of staff not being able to attend the facility and staffing levels falling below our normal working levels, to stay in line with legislation and adult to child ratio's, we will be unable to receive our normal levels of children. In such an event the following steps will be followed:

- The Centre's management will attempt to pre-empt any shortfall in advance and have such information the night before a partial closure.
- Parents will be notified via SMS text as per the mobile number supplied by parents on their child's registration form.
- Notice of the partial closure will also be put up on our web-site www.scampsandscholars.ie and our Facebook page.
- In the event of a partial closure, and where your child can be accommodated, fees will apply for the day (or part of) in the normal manner. If your child cannot be accommodated fees for your child under such circumstances will be waived.
- Please note circumstances may dictate that the decision to activate a partial closure may not be able to be made until the morning but the same steps will be followed thereafter.
- In the event of the above circumstances arising children will be accepted on a **first come first serve basis only**. No exceptions or breach of ratio's will be permitted in the above circumstances.

Parent cooperation is essential for any inclement weather condition. Children need to be dressed for the conditions.

The decision to close the centre in such circumstances will invariably not be universally accepted. Issues of family schedules, day care, and a host of other problems are always created when a school closes with little notice to parents.

Issues of child safety are paramount and this essentially lies at the centre of the Centre's decision making. However, if the Centre is open and offering a full service fees will apply in the normal manner.