**Exceptional Closures Policy of Murrisk N.S**

**The need for a school policy on Exceptional Closures is primarily due to:**

-Inclement weather

-Breakdown of heat, electricity or water systems.

-Serious damage to school property

-Critical incidents

Our policy for Emergency closures follows the guidelines for schools, available in the following publication: National Rules for Schools-Rule 60

**Aims and objectives:**

-To provide for the welfare of pupils and staff

-To ensure a safe, child-friendly environment

-To comply with Health & Safety legislation

**Disconnection of Services:**

Where electricity services to the school are to be disconnected, a week’s notice is usually given by the relevant authority to the school’s Board of Management.

This enables the BOM to give advance notice of school closure to the parent body via text-a-parent or circular.

Where the heating/water systems break down, or in the case of problems with the sewage system, parents will be notified as soon as possible via text.

Every measure will be taken to fix the system as soon as possible.

**Inclement weather:**

-School may close in the event of high wind/heavy snow/ frost etc if it is considered that there is a danger to pupils/staff and at the discretion of the Board of Management.

-On days where the electricity is gone at 8.50am, school will remain closed until 11am.

-If the power is still gone at 11am, school will be closed for the remainder of the day.

-School will be closed if there is a breakdown in heat or water supply.

- School will be closed in the event of a red weather warning.

-On occasions where children are already at school and any of the above situations occur, parents will be phoned and asked to collect their children. Teachers will remain at school until all children are collected by their parents/guardians.

-Parents will be informed via text-a-parent or phone call.

**Critical Incidents/ Death:**

Parents will be informed of such closures via text-a-parent or phone call. School may remain open to staff and BOM in such incidents, where church services, guards of honour or counselling services need to be organised.

 **Inservice/ Staff Training/Half day closures:**

Parents will be notified at least one week in advance via text-a-parent or circular.

**Ratification and Communication:**

This policy was ratified by Murrisk N.S Board of Management in February 2020 and was distributed to the parent body. It is available to view on our website from February 2020.

Parents are asked to inform the school immediately if their contact details change.

This policy will be reviewed in February 2022.

Principal’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson’s Signature: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_