

15th January 2024
(JD/JG)



John Devine M.A. (Hons); M.Ed; SQH
Headteacher

Breadalbane Academy
ABERFELDY PH15 2DU
Tel 01887 822300 • Fax 01887 820464
Email breadalbane@pkc.gov.uk
Website www.breadalbane.pkc.sch.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

Arrangements for School Transport Emergencies

As a parent whose child uses school transport, I am writing to you to provide information on the steps the school and local authority will take in the event of school transport being unable to convey your child to their usual drop off point at the end of the day.

- **Why might this happen?**

Very occasionally, there will be issues with buses or taxis being able to travel by their usual route. In most cases, this will be because of adverse weather but it could also be for other reasons such as a road accident, a fallen tree or a landslip.

Where there is any prospect of poor road conditions, the school will always get in touch with transport providers to seek their views on potential transport challenges. When advised by a transport provider that there is a difficulty with transport, we will always advise parents of this. This may be to say that the transport will not be operating in the morning or that some or all transport will have to leave the school early in order to ensure safe travel home.

The school will always be guided by transport providers as to road conditions, but parents are of course free to make a decision to collect their children early or not to send them to school at all, if they themselves have concerns that the return journey may not be possible.

- **What steps will the school take if school transport is unable to travel at the end of the day by its normal route?**

1. Inform Parents

As soon as it seems likely that there will be a delay of any sort, we will groupcall parents, describing the problem and estimating the delay. If roads are inaccessible for any reason, we will also notify parents of this.

2. Contact the Public Transport Unit (PTU)

The PTU is the department in Perth and Kinross Council which has a responsibility for school transport. Once we know there is a significant problem, as opposed to a short delay, we will contact the PTU. They will liaise with the bus or taxi company to see if they can arrange alternative transport or agree an alternative route home. The PTU may also seek support on removing obstacles in the road. For example, they recently organised for a digger to come and remove debris that had been left on the road by a landslip.



Parents may also want to consult the PTU guidance [Travelling to School](#) which has already been issued to you. You will find further information regarding adverse weather conditions in Section 9 of this booklet.

3. Contact parents again

Once we have an update from the PTU, we will contact parents again. If appropriate at this point, we may ask parents if they wish to make an alternative arrangement to get their child home. In the past, for example, a parent has volunteered to use his 4-wheel drive car which was able to pass a road that was impassable by a bus. However, the school and PTU will never simply pass the problem of getting their child home on to parents. We know that parents will try to help the school where they can, but we also recognise that sometimes they will not have the means to do this.

4. Contact the PKC Emergency Response Team

In the very unusual circumstance where it looks as if the transport providers, the PTU and the school are going to be unable to come up with a solution to getting children home, the school will seek support from the PKC Emergency Response Team. At this point, we may begin to liaise with parents about whether there is a friend or relative who lives at a location accessible from the school where their child could perhaps spend the night. Should this not be possible, we will liaise with the Emergency Response Team to consider emergency arrangements.

Obviously, the school and our partners will do everything that we possibly can to ensure that all young people make it home at the end of a school day, but there may be some very exceptional circumstances in which this is simply not possible. **We would suggest therefore that parents whose children use school transport - particularly those in more remote areas - consider in advance if there is someone with whom their child can stay in Aberfeldy or nearby.**

I hope that parents will find this overview of emergency transport arrangements helpful. If you have queries regarding the points raised in this letter please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

Yours faithfully



John Devine
Headteacher

enc: Travelling to School