

**Scoil Aodán Naofa
Carnew
Roll No. 18242A**

**Policy on
Exceptional Closures**

Rationale

This policy has been drawn up to comply with D.E.S. circulars governing exceptional closure days, in particular:

Circular 11/95: Exceptional Closures

And

Circular 0034/2011: Standardisation of the School Year.

Definition

Exceptional Closures as determined by Rule 60, may include the following closures:

- Inclement weather
- Heating breakdown
- Death of a teacher in the school
- Death of a president or bishop
- Essential emergency repairs

Rule 52 (1) states that:

"Works of maintenance should be carried out, as far as possible, during the vacation periods"

Rule 60 also states that, should some exceptional circumstances arise, e.g. failure of electricity/heating system or damage caused by vandalism, the Board of Management may close the school even if the school cannot be kept open for 183 days.

General Position

Scoil Aodán Naofa retains discretion in relation to the need and the duration of exceptional closures. In general, a school closure, due to unforeseen circumstances, should be compensated for later in the year. Circular 0034/2011 Appendix B outlines provision at the Easter Break for making up such lost days, i.e. school may remain open on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of Holy Week, as necessary. In exceptional circumstances, a school may apply to the Department for an exemption or partial exemption from this requirement.

Building/Maintenance

Scoil Aodán Naofa Carnew makes every effort to have works of maintenance or building carried out during vacation periods. This has been achieved in recent years under the Summer Works Scheme.

Adverse Weather

The Chairperson, in consultation with the School principal, has devolved authority from the Board of Management to determine whether it is necessary to close due to adverse weather.

Elections

Scoil Aodán Naofa is utilised as a polling station for elections and referenda. Closures on such days are reckoned as part of the minimum of 183 days.

Rule 62: Closure of School in the interest of Public Health

If the closing of the school is deemed necessary in the interests of public health the written recommendation of the Medical Officer of Health, must be obtained by the Chairperson and forwarded to the D.E.S. The responsibility for closing the school rests with the Board of Management.

Communication

Advance notice of impending closures is given to parents/guardians at the earliest possible opportunity, This is done by note, newsletter or by text. Unforeseen closures are notified to parents by text. If parents/guardians cannot be contacted and their child is on the school premises, the school has a duty of care to the child until arrangements are made for him/her to be brought into the care of a designated responsible adult or until a parent/guardian collects him/her.

Review: This policy will be reviewed during the term of office of each Board of Management or when legislation, directives of Dept. circulars decrees a change in policy or procedure

Ratification

This policy was reviewed and ratified on 20th October 2011.

Signed: Martin Barry Chairperson.