



13th May 2019

Re: Unavoidable closure for European elections on Thursday 23rd May.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to the brief correspondence sent about the pending European elections in which I asked that you assumed school closure, I have now received confirmation from Democratic Services that this is set to go ahead. Therefore, it is with regret that I will be calling an unavoidable closure.

I recognise that this is inconvenient and I do not ever make these decisions lightly. However, because of the amount of public that will be in attendance throughout the day on and surrounding the school site, I conclude that I cannot fully ensure the safeguarding of your children, which is the prime concern for school at all times and I am sure you would not want it any other way.

I wish to share here the correspondence from the Director of Children's Services and Democratic Services which should answer some of the concerns or queries that have come to my attention surrounding the use of school as a Polling Station and how we are allowed to take the decision to call this closure. You will see from this information that school does not have a choice in being a Polling Station, and the closure is supported by the Local Authority as we have already used all of our Inset Days this year.

'As you know the European Elections are confirmed for Thursday 23rd May 2019. No information has yet been received from the DfE in relation to the Election however you will have received a letter from the Council's Democratic Services outlining that those schools who close for Elections due to not being able to safely remain open are authorised to close as an unavoidable closure due to the short notice of the Election.

Alternatively, an Inset Day could be arranged or re-arranged. However there may not be time to do this. If the school is therefore prevented from meeting and it is not practicable to arrange an alternative Inset Day the school is treated as if it had met for the purposes of the school year regulations.

To assist with information and enquires from parents please advise that legislation dictates that for the purpose of taking the poll in England and Wales, the Local Authority is entitled to use free of charge schools maintained or assisted by a Local Authority as well as those schools that receive grants made out of monies provided by Parliament. This includes academies and free schools. Schools cannot refuse a request to be used as a Polling Station and can only remain open if they are safely able to do.'

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K. L. Thornburn
Principal



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