



Methven Area Bus Group

Snow Closure Information

Any decision made regarding bus operation, is a joint decision between school Principals, the Bus Controller and Methven Travel. We often seek weather advice from outside companies who have radar and monitoring equipment. Every decision is based on the safety of the students. Rest assured we do not cancel buses lightly.

Procedure for Closure Before the Start of School

- If we awake to snow on the ground a decision will be made by 6.30am. We may not always get it right, but err on the side of caution.
- All communication methods (see page two) will be updated as soon as possible after a decision has been made.
- Please note that the school could be open, but buses are not operating.
- Because of the difficulty in identifying who has arranged to be picked up by caregivers and who would catch the bus home, the following policy is in place for safety: If buses don't run in the morning, they will also not run in the afternoon.

Procedure for Closure During the Day

- Not all bus runs may be affected by the weather event, and schools may remain open, so please check official communication lines for accurate information.
- Schools will move all affected bus students to their own school hall and will make contact with the primary caregiver to confirm if they are to go home on the bus (staggered departures) or stay at school to be collected by a caregiver or nominated person.
 - Mt Hutt College: Affected bus students will be asked to text their caregiver and show the response to the office. This saves the school time and allows us to get buses away much quicker. If this option doesn't work for your family the school will ring you.
 - Methven Primary School: A Hero email and text notification will be sent to the primary caregiver asking if the child is to be sent home on the bus or held at school for collection. The school will phone parents who have not responded to the message.
 - Our Lady of the Snows: A message will be sent out via Skool Loop or SeeSaw asking if the child is to be sent home on the bus or held at school for collection. The school will phone parents who have not responded to the message.
- **If you cannot be contacted your child/ren will stay at school for collection.**

- Please have your cell phones on if snow is predicted and please ensure the school has your up to date contact details at all times.
- Please do not ring Methven Travel or the Schools, they need their phone lines free. You will be contacted if your child/ren have been affected.
- The Mount Hutt College cancellation line and Methven Area Bus Group Facebook page will be updated with despatch times – please note it can take up to an hour from the schools contacting you to the bus actually leaving. If time allows, we will also update the local radio stations.
- If we have snow starting to settle around the 2pm time, we will not go through the early closure process, but may send the buses 10-15 minutes earlier – please be prepared for this.

Communication Methods

Phone Cancellation Lines

- Mt Hutt College Cancellation Line: 302 8904
- Hokonui Cancellation Line: 307 8927

Social Media

- [Methven Area Bus Group Facebook](#)
- [Methven Area Bus Group Twitter](#)
- [Mount Hutt College Facebook](#)
- [Methven Primary School Facebook](#)
- [Our Lady of the Snows School Facebook](#)

School notifications to affected bus runs

- Mount Hutt College: KMAR & Newsflash
- Methven Primary School: Hero Email & Text notification
- Our Lady of the Snows: Skool Loop or Seesaw message

If you have any queries regarding the above information, please contact Sally-Ann Kircher, Methven Area Bus Co-ordinator 027 235 0337.