



### What is Beacon?

Beacon is an emergency school and public building closure system that quickly and efficiently alerts all stakeholders such as the media and parents of a closure with just one call.

### How does Beacon work?

Upon taking the decision to close a school the head teacher or authorised person calls the dedicated local Beacon hotline.

The Beacon hotline is an automated system that prompts the caller to enter their school DCSF number and a unique PIN via the phone keypad.

The caller is then able to set the status of their school by entering '1' for open and '0' for closed.

The Beacon hotline automatically updates a database with the school status information.

Block e-mails are generated and sent out to interested parties such as the local media with all local school closure information.

At the end of the closure period the head teacher or authorised person calls the Beacon hotline for a second time and re-sets the status of the school thus setting off the communication phase again.

### Why Beacon?

At present a variety of inefficient and unsatisfactory methods are in use to disseminate information about school closures to the media and parents.

Upon taking the decision to close a school the head teacher is usually required to call the local media, the Local Authority as well as any other interested parties such as colleagues.

These calls typically occur early in the morning and when replicated across large numbers of schools within a short time span lead to a deluge of information to both media and Local Authorities.

QES Beacon replaces all of this with just one phone call that updates everyone in a fast and efficient manner.

### Highlights

- Head teachers make a single call to inform all stakeholders of school closure.
- Solution available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.
- Ample bandwidth to handle mass school closures.
- Local Authority controls and updates broadcast list of media and other interested parties.
- Single e-mail to media contains all school closure information replacing multiple incoming calls.
- Solution can operate via telephone, SMS and also online.
- Solution can be tailored to suit how Local Authority wants to operate.

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