

Smart Steps Nursery – Adverse Weather Policy

Policy Statement

At Smart Steps Nursery, the safety and wellbeing of children, staff, and families is our highest priority. We recognise that adverse weather conditions can create risks and may affect the safe operation of the nursery. This policy outlines the procedures we follow during periods of extreme weather, including heatwaves, snow, ice, storms, flooding, and other severe weather events.

Purpose

Ensure the safety and welfare of children, staff, and visitors; minimise disruption to childcare provision where possible; provide clear guidance for parents and staff; and comply with health and safety requirements.

Types of Adverse Weather

Extreme heat and heatwaves, snow and ice, high winds and storms, heavy rainfall and flooding, severe cold temperatures, and any weather warning issued by the Met Office.

Monitoring Weather Conditions

Management will monitor forecasts and weather warnings, conduct risk assessments, and make decisions based on the safety of children, staff and families.

Extreme Heat Procedures

Parents should provide a named sun hat and water bottle. Children should arrive with sun cream applied. Additional sun cream will be applied in line with permissions. Outdoor activities may be restricted during peak UV periods. Air conditioning, fans, blinds and hydration measures will be used to keep children comfortable and safe.

Snow, Ice and Severe Cold Weather

The nursery will aim to remain open where safe to do so. Decisions will consider site safety, staffing availability, travel conditions and official guidance. Paths may be gritted and outdoor play restricted where conditions are unsafe.

Storms, High Winds and Flooding

Outdoor play will be suspended when conditions present a risk. Loose equipment will be secured and any affected areas closed until safe.

Nursery Closure

In exceptional circumstances the nursery may open late, close early or close completely. Families will be informed via the nursery app, text, email or social media.

Collection of Children

Parents may be asked to collect children early if conditions deteriorate. Emergency contact details must be kept up to date.

Staffing

Staff should make every reasonable effort to attend work safely but should never place themselves at risk when travelling in dangerous conditions.

Communication

The nursery will maintain clear communication with families regarding opening status, activity changes and collection arrangements.

Review Date: _____

Next Review Due: _____

Signed: _____