



01.20 Adverse Weather

During adverse weather conditions it is our intention to strive to provide uninterrupted provision of our high quality childcare and education service while upholding our duty to ensure the safety and welfare of the children, their families and staff.

We aim to achieve this by having clear procedures and definite criteria in place on which to make an informed decision when faced with possible closure.

The decision to close Pre-school shall be made using the following criteria:

- Is the Pre-school building and its site safe?
- If the Manager decides the Pre-school site can be made safer with salt being laid on the driveway and snow being moved then Pre-school may open later than 9am. This will be communicated with parents as soon as is possible via email and WhatsApp.
- Is the car park safe to drive in and out of?
- Our decision to close or remain open will often be taken alongside local schools in the area.
- Is the temperature within Pre-school reasonable?
- Can reasonable steps be taken to achieve a temperature which is comfortable for both children and staff?
- Can the Manager staff the sessions adequately? If staff are unable to get to work and ratios cannot be maintained we will not open the pre-school.
- Are all essential amenities functioning effectively to maintain a safe environment for those within the setting e.g. water, electricity, heating.
- Is it possible for staff and families to get to and from the Preschool safely, taking into account the condition of local roads.



The final decision will be a joint one between the Pre-school Manager and the Committee Chairperson. The decision shall be reviewed on a day to day basis.

Staffing

- In the event of adverse weather forecast the Manager or Deputy will email all parents to communicate a closure and post details on socials.
- Parents will be informed of any closure at the earliest possible opportunity.
- Staff members need to make independent decisions on their ability to attend work in severe weather conditions. Their safety is paramount and they should not put themselves at risk.

Parents/Carers

- If you do not see on our Facebook page, or receive an email to inform you of closure then Pre-school is open.
- Parents/carers need to make independent decisions on their ability to reach Pre-school in adverse weather conditions. The safety of the children and their families is paramount and they should not put themselves at risk.
- If the decision is made to close Pre-school, a refund of fees will be offered after closure.
- If the Pre-school is open and children do not attend fees will still be charged.

This policy will also be applied when the Pre-school is faced with adverse conditions beyond our control such as burst pipes, broken heating etc.