



Adverse Weather Policy

EYFS: 3.58

At The Lodge Preschool and Nursery we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our nursery is prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running of the nursery such as floods, snow and heat waves.

The safety of our children, staff and the families who use our settings, is of the utmost importance to us. We will therefore endeavour to remain open where possible during severe weather, or other adverse conditions that affect operational running, but this will heavily depend upon a number of circumstances.

In the case of adverse weather conditions, we may make the decision to close the nursery the following day. In this situation, each child's primary contacts will be notified by iConnect, email and or telephone, to notify them of the closure. Staff would be informed of any closures either in person or by the methods above.

If the nursery remains open during adverse conditions, we will aim to operate as normal for as long as possible. However, we may make the decision to open later or close earlier, **depending on:**

- How many staff members can travel safely to and from work.
- The nursery building both inside and outside being accessible and safe.
- The temperature/conditions being suitable for the children when inside.

We will keep staff and parents updated via iConnect, email and or telephone throughout the day. It should be noted that we cannot remain open unless the minimum correct adult: child ratios can be met. Therefore, if the nursery opens and only a certain number of staff members can work on the day, unfortunately the children that we are able to accept on that day will be based on a first come, first serve basis. We will aim to contact other staff members from our wider team, but we are not able to go over the required ratio number.

If the nursery is open as normal and we experience adverse conditions during the day, the Nursery Manager, Area Manager and/or The Director will have the final judgement on whether the nursery remains open for the day, and for how long. We will take into consideration any local school closures, along with the local area forecast, as well as following any relevant Local Authority and/or government instruction/guidelines provided. We will also monitor closely the services available by public transport. The safety of everyone accessing the nursery is the most important thing, and if we feel parents need to start collecting their children earlier than usual to get home safely, phone calls, emails, and messages on iConnect will be made to all parents to inform them of our decision.

Staff members will be sent home in order of distance or personal circumstances, but only as and when ratios within the nursery allows it. These decisions will be made at the discretion of the Management team.

The majority of the time travel and the operation of the nursery can remain normal, but we ask that all parents understand the need for safety when faced with severe weather. We suggest



that when it does snow for example, that staff and parents give themselves ample time to make their way to and from the setting and that they travel as safely as possible.

If driving, we recommend using public transport where possible and/or parking on the main roads if able to do so. We will do our best to ensure that our car park and pathways are cleared and gritted to assist accessibility.

Please note that during adverse weather conditions there will be no refunds offered for any closures or alterations to opening hours. We do not take the decision to close our setting lightly and would only ever do so under extreme unavoidable conditions and to keep staff and children safe.

Conditions and Procedures:

Flood

In the case of a flood, we will follow our critical incident procedure to enable all children and staff to be safe and continuity of care to be planned for.

Snow or other severe weather

Snow specifically, can be overly exciting for the children and we like to be able to make these times fun for them as we incorporate learning opportunities. To this end, we ask that children attending nursery when snow is forecast and/or evident, are sent in appropriate clothing with suitable outerwear and footwear as it is more than likely that they will go outside to play during their time at nursery. As always, all items should be name-labelled.

If high snowfall, or another severe weather condition such as dense fog, is threatened during a nursery day then the manager will take the decision as to whether to close the nursery. This decision will consider the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the nursery day, we will contact all parents to arrange for collection of their child.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow or other severe weather, we will contact all available off duty staff and/or agency staff and group the children differently until they are able to arrive. If we are unable to maintain statutory ratio requirements after all avenues are explored, we will contact Ofsted to inform them of this issue, recording all details in our incident file. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is compromised then we will take the decision to close the nursery.

Heat wave

Please refer to our sun care policy.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
19/05/2021	<i>Natasha Eftekhari</i>	19/05/2022
	<i>Leiha Goodall</i>	15/11/2023