



Ladybirds Preschool Adverse Weather Policy

(Revised 4th December 2024)

Working in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS).

Quality and Consistency.

A Secure Foundation.

Partnership Working.

Equality of Opportunity.

Unique Child Positive Partnerships Enabling Environment Learning and Developing

Introduction

At Ladybirds Preschool we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our preschools are prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running and safety of the setting such as floods, snow and heatwaves.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability of the setting to open or operate, we will follow direction from the preschool committee, and contact parents via Tapestry. Ideally before 8am.

Parents are advised to check Tapestry, emails and our preschool website for updates.

In the instance of any threats of adverse weather during operational hours we may not take children outdoors where we judge that weather conditions make it unsafe to do so.

Procedures

Flood

In the case of a flood our first priority will be the safety of children, staff and visitors, and we will liaise with the Preschool committee and take direction from the emergency services. We will inform parents as soon as reasonably possible via Tapestry and telephone to enable all children to be safely collected.

Snow or other severe weather

In the case of snow, or another severe weather conditions such as dense fog, as soon as we are aware it is likely to have an impact during the session, the manager will take the decision as to whether to close the setting. This decision will take into account the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the session, we will contact all parents via Tapestry and telephone to arrange for collection of their child.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow or other adverse weather we will contact all available off duty staff and may 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. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is compromised then we may take the decision to close the pre-school.

Heat wave

During prolonged periods of outside temperature's rising above 30 degrees Celsius, we will reduce the times the children spend outside, and ensure children have access to plenty of fresh drinking water and wear hats and sun cream factor 50 plus at all times when outside. Children must arrive with sun cream on, children staying all day must have an all-day sun protection on. Staff will not apply sun cream if a child has a severe skin condition/allergy.

Safety is our absolute priority and we must follow guidance from the UK Health Security Agency, NHS and Early Years / Ofsted requirements.

For children aged 2–4 years old, the risk is significant: young children cannot regulate their body temperature effectively, they dehydrate very quickly, and early signs of heat illness are hard to spot. Official advice confirms that once temperatures rise above 35°C, standard measures such as fans or ventilation are no longer effective and can sometimes make dehydration worse. Indoors, older buildings often retain heat and become warmer than outside air.

If the temperature outside reaches 35°C outside and we are unable to maintain an indoor temperature of 26°, then we will be unable to remain open. This is for the health & safety of all the preschool community.

We remain the right to refuse any child who does not come equipped with the right items in a case of a heatwave. These being suncream applied and a named suncream bottle being in their bag, a named water bottle, a sunhat, sensible (non-open toed) shoes and two changes of clothing suitable for the hot weather. This is so we can ensure your child's safety.

Adverse weather conditions and staff safety

Responsibilities of Staff • Staff should not put themselves at unnecessary or inordinate risk when attempting to attend work

- It is the responsibility of the staff member to make every effort to attend for duty at their normal place of work, in accordance with their contract of employment. This includes adapting their means of travel if necessary, or using a combination of travel options, even if this results in arriving late for work. It should be noted that where additional expense is incurred as a result of using different travel methods these expenses cannot be reimbursed by Ladybirds Preschool.

- In the event of adverse weather conditions staff will take all reasonable steps to report his or her inability to attend work to their manager as soon as is practicably possible. This should be in line with the preschools normal arrangements for reporting sickness absence or other unanticipated absence and this will apply for

each day that the member of staff is unable to attend work. Please note that failure to comply with reporting arrangements may amount to unauthorised absence.

Ladybirds Preschool recognises that staff may face difficulties attending their place of work and returning home during periods of adverse weather conditions such as heavy snow falls, flooding, or other adverse weather conditions which may result in journeys to work being extremely hazardous. However, whilst Ladybirds Preschool is committed to protecting the health and safety of all its staff, it must ensure that disruption caused to its services remains minimal.

Where an employee experiences substantial difficulty in attending work due to adverse weather conditions, they should notify their respective line manager or other senior member of staff immediately to explain the circumstances.

- In the event that a member of staff cannot attend work due to adverse weather, by agreement with their manager, any lost time will be treated in accordance with the options laid out in section 4 below. One or a combination of these options may be applied on each day of adverse weather conditions.
- If a member of staff has made all reasonable efforts to travel to their place of work but has failed due to adverse weather conditions or disruptions to public transport, upon agreement with the line manager, and subject to operational needs, the manager may agree one of the following options to account for time lost:

Options

- Working from home (if practicable).
- Making up the time/hours lost (usually within one month). This is dependent on contracted hours.
- Taking unpaid leave.
- Or apply a combination of the above options.

Adverse weather conditions

Responsibilities

Ladybirds Preschool has a duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 to ensure the safety of their employees, by carrying out risk assessments to assess the risks of activities and to put measures in place to control these risks and to inform the employees about these measures.

The greatest risk to be considered when carrying out activities outdoors is the weather. The weather can change from minute to minute and there is always the chance that the weather can change. Severe weather and extreme weather conditions can have a detrimental effect on health and safety.

Procedures

The weather should not be a barrier to providing sessions. Light rain, a breeze and 2-3 centimetres of snow all bring exciting learning opportunities to a preschool

session. Staff, volunteers and children should all be suitably dressed in warm clothing, waterproof trousers and jackets, coats, scarfs, gloves, or sun hats and be wearing sturdy footwear i.e. wellington boots or walking boots.

If the temperature outside reaches 35°C outside and we are unable to maintain an indoor temperature of 26°, then we will be unable to remain open. This is for the health & safety of all the preschool community. Parents and/or emergency contacts will be contacted either by phone, text message, email or WhatsApp to come and collect their child as a matter of safety.

Depending on the locations being used, there will be impact on the suitability of the weather and adverse weather conditions;

Other Related Policies & Procedures

The following policies provide additional information regarding the safeguarding and welfare of the children in our care:

- *Children's Rights & Entitlement Policy*
- *Confidentiality and Client Access Policy*
- *Confidentiality Policy*
- *Data Protection Policy*
- *Employment & Staffing Policy*
- *Equality and Diversity Policy*
- *Information Sharing Policy*
- *Parent Involvement*
- *Photograph and Video Policy*
- *Sen/Inclusion Policy*
- *Safeguarding & Child Protection*
- *Working from Home*

December 2024

Review Date: December 2026

This Notice was adopted by the committee on

Signed: *Jean De Zaris*

Reviewed Date:

Signature:

Amendments: