

WEATHER POLICY

Written: 15/02/2022

Reviewed by JH 17.02.23

This policy outlines the procedures to be followed in the event of adverse weather conditions to ensure the safety and well-being of all children, staff, and visitors to our nursery school. Our primary concern is the safety of everyone within our premises, and this policy is designed to guide our actions during such times.

General Precautions:

- a) The nursery will monitor weather forecasts daily, particularly during months where severe weather can be anticipated.
- b) The nursery will ensure that all outdoor areas are safe for use, and if necessary, restrict access if deemed unsafe.
- c) Parents/guardians will be informed of any necessary precautions or changes to normal routines due to weather conditions.

In the Case of Storms or Severe Weather Warnings

a) **Prior Warning:** If there is a severe weather warning that affects the operational hours of the nursery:

- Parents/guardians will be informed as soon as possible via phone, email, or text message.
- Consideration will be given to the possibility of early closure if the weather is expected to worsen. Decisions will be communicated promptly.

b) **During Nursery Hours:**

- Outdoor activities will be cancelled.
- All windows and external doors will be securely closed.
- If necessary, children will be moved away from windows or areas that might be exposed to flying debris.
- Activities will be conducted in the safest areas of the nursery, ensuring the well-being and comfort of all children.

c) **Travel**

- Staff and parents/guardians are advised to keep updated with the latest travel advice from local authorities.

- If travel conditions are unsafe, we may ask parents/guardians to pick up their children early or advise staff not to travel.

Snow and Ice

- a) The nursery will ensure that pathways, entrances, and emergency exits are cleared of snow and ice to make them safe for use.
- b) If staff members are unable to travel safely to the nursery, we may operate with reduced staff, combine groups, or in extreme cases, consider closure.
- c) Parents/guardians will be informed of any changes to the nursery's operational hours or closures due to snow and ice.

Excessive Rain or Flooding

- a) In case of anticipated flooding, the nursery will ensure that all essential equipment and resources are elevated to prevent damage.
- b) If access to the nursery becomes restricted or unsafe due to flooding, parents/guardians will be informed, and the nursery may close.

High Wind / Hurricane

- a) In the event of high winds or hurricane warnings, the nursery will enact stringent safety measures to safeguard the welfare of all within our establishment. When forecasts indicate impending high winds or a hurricane, we will assess the risk of keeping the nursery open. If winds are expected to be particularly severe, a decision may be made to close the nursery temporarily.
- b) During operational hours, outdoor activities will be halted, and all windows, external doors, and other potential points of vulnerability will be securely fastened. Children will be kept away from windows and in the safest, most sheltered areas of the nursery.
- c) Parents/guardians will be informed promptly of any changes to operational hours or evacuations, and are advised to have a plan in place for early collection if necessary.
- d) We also encourage parents to monitor local weather advisories and make travel decisions with utmost caution. The nursery's primary focus during such times is to ensure a secure environment, minimising exposure to the hazards high winds or hurricanes can bring.

High Temperatures

- a) During periods of high temperatures, outdoor play will be limited, especially during peak sun hours.
- b) Children will be regularly provided with water and will be encouraged to drink frequently.
- c) Sunscreen will be applied (with parental consent), and children will be required to wear hats when outdoors.

Communication

Open communication is key during any severe weather event:

- a) Parents/guardians are asked to keep their contact details updated so that they can be reached quickly if needed.
- b) Parents/guardians are also encouraged to inform the nursery of any changes in pick-up arrangements due to weather conditions.

Critical Incident

In the event of a critical incident i.e., closure of the premises due to adverse weather conditions, heating failure, flood, or closure due to nearby road or severe traffic jam the following procedure will be followed:

- The safety and wellbeing of the children will be of paramount importance.
- If we need to evacuate the building current fire procedures will be activated and children will be removed to far side of small carpark – please refer to our Fire Safety Policy.
- After emergency services have been contacted all efforts will then be made to contact parents/carers or emergency contact numbers.
- As many staff as possible would stay with the children for as long as necessary. No child would ever be left without a member of staff with them.
- In the event of a critical incident if your child cannot be collected and staff members need to return to their homes the child will accompany a senior member of staff home. A message will be left, if possible, for the parent and police, or social services will be informed of the staff members address and name of child.
- If Humming Bees Day Nursery needs to close all efforts will be made to inform parents before the nursery is next due to open. Staff will attempt to ring parents, we will notify the local radio station and put notices on the exterior doors if possible. Please ensure you check your local radio station in very adverse weather conditions such as heavy snow.
- Closures will be announced on the Humming Bees Day Nursery FB page