

Adverse Weather Policy

At Pepperberry Day Nursery and Auckland House Day Nursery the safety, health, and welfare of children, staff, and families is our highest priority. This policy outlines the procedures and measures in place to manage adverse weather conditions, including floods, snow, and heat waves, to always ensure safe operation of the nursery.

This policy applies to all children, staff, parents, carers, and visitors attending Pepperberry Day Nursery.

Objectives

- To ensure the safety and wellbeing of children and staff during adverse weather conditions.
- To maintain continuity of care wherever possible.
- To provide clear guidance to staff and parents regarding nursery procedures during adverse weather events.

Communication

In the event of weather conditions impacting the nursery's operation:

- Parents and carers will be notified promptly via phone, email, IConnect System or text message.
- Decisions regarding closures or changes to routines will be communicated as early as possible.

Outdoor Activities

Children will not be taken outdoors if weather conditions are deemed unsafe, including extreme temperatures, flooding, or other hazards.

Floods

- The nursery will follow its Critical Incident Procedure to ensure the safety of all children and staff.
- Continuity of care will be maintained wherever possible.
- Risk assessments will be conducted and recorded.

Snow or Other Severe Weather

- The Nursery Manager will assess the safety of opening or remaining open in severe weather conditions, including high snowfall, ice, or dense fog.
- Closure Decisions:
 - Parents will be informed immediately if the nursery needs to close during the day.
 - Arrangements will be made for the safe collection of children.
- Staffing Shortages:
 - Available off-duty staff and/or agency staff will be contacted to maintain statutory staff-to-child ratios.

- If ratios cannot be maintained, Ofsted will be informed, and all actions will be recorded in the incident file.
- Safety Considerations:
 - If at any point the health, safety, or welfare of children is compromised, the nursery will close until safe operation can resume.

Heat Wave

- Staff will make day-to-day decisions regarding outdoor play based on temperature and sun exposure.
- Children will not be exposed to direct sunlight between 11am and 3pm on hot days.
- Shaded areas will be provided to allow children to cool down or seek shelter from the sun.
- Further guidance is available in the nursery's Sun Care Policy.

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Reviewed By	Emma Jones (Head of Early Years)