

# Severe Weather Conditions

## Policy statement

It is always our intention to remain open irrespective of weather conditions. However, we must ensure that we have a policy in place to deal with circumstances outside the norm and which might have an adverse effect on the safe running of our Pre-school.

Circumstances might include flood, snow, or heat wave.

Possible impacts might be:

- Lack of safe access to Pre-school
- Heating, electricity, gas leak or water failure
- Lack of staff to ensure compliant supervision.
- Exceptionally high or low temperatures

If we are unable to operate Pre-school for any of these reasons and therefore need to close, we will endeavour to advise parents via an email and social media as soon as it is practicably possible.

In other situations, Pre-school will remain open, but alterations may be made to the access of, or to the use of the area to ensure safety.

### Flood (caused by rain)

In the unlikely event of flooding, a risk assessment would be undertaken to ensure that the safety and wellbeing of the staff and children can be maintained.

### Flood (caused by burst pipe)

Flooding outside the building might mean access routes would be altered or the outside play area might be out of bounds until the problem was resolved.

Flooding inside discovered before a session starts would be assessed, the school caretaker contacted, emergency services contacted if necessary and a decision taken on whether alternative, but safe, arrangements could possibly be made to run the session elsewhere within the school building.

Flooding during a session would be dealt with firstly by evacuating children, staff and others to a safe location, before following the above procedure.

### Snow and Ice

Heavy snowfall outside normal session times will be monitored and a decision will be made as to whether we will open, after discussions with the Pre-School staff, and the head teacher or other representative of the Primary School.

If the decision is to open as normal, no further action will be taken.

If the decision is to remain closed, we will endeavour to contact parents as soon as possible.

Where snowfall occurs during a session, the staff and the Primary School head teacher or representative, will come to a decision whether to remain open. The decision will be based on the safety and well being of children, staff and parents and our compliance with statutory requirements.

Where it is deemed necessary to close early, parents will be contacted by email and social media.

Where snowfall has occurred but Pre-school remains open, precautions will be made to ensure everyone is safe. The safety of the school grounds remains the responsibility of the Primary School. A risk assessment will be made on the outdoor play area to ensure it is safe to use.

Ice imposes a particular safety risk in the outside play area and may render the space unusable. Again, a risk assessment will be undertaken to establish the usability of the outdoor play area where there is ice on the ground.

At any time, a parent/ carer would prefer not to bring their child to Pre-School or pick up early during a session due to weather conditions, this is quite acceptable

### Heat Wave

We ask parents/carers to ensure their child is already applied with sun lotion when attending a session. Whilst we have a supply of sun hats, we ask parents to ensure their child has their own sun hat.

The outside temperature will be monitored and a decision made to how long we limit children to play outside at any one time.

Inside the building, again the temperature will be monitored and we will ventilate the room as much as possible without imposing a safety risk to children i.e. open windows.

Again, if at any time a parent wishes to keep their child at home or collect from Pre-school early, this is quite acceptable.

### Fees

A refund will be given for all full fee-paying sessions where the Pre-school is closed due to severe weather. This will not apply to those who are unable to attend due to severe weather but where the Pre-school has remained open.

Whilst we will make every effort to contact parents to inform them of an unforeseen closure, it remains the responsibility of parents to ascertain whether Pre-school is open or closed on a particular day.

This policy was reviewed Nov 2025

This policy was adopted at a meeting of the Addingham Pre School Committee	Date:
Signed on behalf of the committee	
Name and role of signatory	