

Adverse Weather and Emergency Closure

Policy

Purpose

At EDG Nursery, the safety, wellbeing and welfare of children, staff and families remain our highest priority.

This policy outlines the procedures the nursery will follow during periods of severe or extreme weather and other emergency situations that may affect the safe operation of the nursery.

The nursery aims to remain open wherever it is safe and practical to do so. However, there may be occasions where adverse weather conditions or emergency circumstances require operational changes, reduced opening hours or temporary closure.

Monitoring Weather Warnings

The nursery will monitor official guidance and alerts issued by:

- The Met Office
- Local Authority guidance
- Public Health authorities
- Emergency Services
- Government advice

Particular attention will be given to:

- Red Weather Warnings
- Amber Weather Warnings where significant risks are identified
- Extreme heat
- Extreme cold
- Snow and ice
- Flooding
- High winds
- Thunderstorms
- Severe air quality warnings

- Other environmental or weather-related e

Management will continuously assess risks and make decisions based on the safety of children, staff and visitors.

Risk Assessment

During adverse weather conditions, the nursery will complete dynamic risk assessments and consider:

- the safety of children within the building
- indoor temperatures
- outdoor temperatures
- ventilation and air quality
- staffing levels
- staff ability to travel safely
- public transport disruption
- local authority advice
- risks associated with outdoor play
- risks associated with travel to and from the nursery

The nursery may implement additional control measures to minimise risk and disruption.

Measures During Extreme Heat

Where temperatures become excessively high, the nursery may implement measures including:

- increased access to drinking water
- reduced outdoor play
- use of shaded areas
- cooling activities
- adjusted routines
- additional welfare checks
- use of fans and air-cooling equipment where available
- monitoring room temperatures throughout the day

Parents may be asked to provide:

- sun hats
- suitable clothing
- additional water bottles
- sun cream where appropriate

Measures During Extreme Cold

During periods of extreme cold, snow or ice, the nursery may:

- restrict access to outdoor areas
- modify outdoor play arrangements
- increase indoor physical activities
- implement additional heating checks
- assess travel safety for staff and families

Staffing and Operational Decisions

The nursery recognises that severe weather may affect staffing levels and the ability of staff to travel safely.

Management may:

- redeploy staff between rooms
- reduce non-essential activities
- adjust routines
- temporarily close specific areas of the nursery
- reduce opening hours
- request early collection of children where necessary
- Combine rooms/group of children of a similar age group

All decisions will be based on maintaining safe staffing levels and ensuring children's welfare remains paramount.

Early Collection Requests

Where severe weather conditions create increased risks to children, staff or the safe operation of the nursery, parents may be asked to collect their child earlier than usual.

Examples may include:

- extreme heat
- severe snow
- flooding risks
- significant transport disruption
- emergency building concerns
- reduced staffing levels caused by severe weather

The nursery will provide as much notice as reasonably possible.

The nursery appreciates the support of parents during such situations and encourages families to make contingency arrangements where possible.

Emergency Closure

In exceptional circumstances, the nursery may decide to close temporarily.

Reasons may include:

- severe weather warnings
- loss of heating
- loss of water supply
- power failure
- significant building damage
- public health emergencies
- emergency services advice
- circumstances that make it unsafe to continue operating

The decision to close will be made by the Nursery Manager and/or Directors.

Parents will be informed as soon as possible via the nursery communication systems

Fees During Emergency Closures

EDG Nursery will always make every reasonable effort to remain open and minimise disruption to families wherever it is safe and practical to do so.

Where the nursery is required to close, reduce operating hours or request early collection due to circumstances beyond our reasonable control, normal nursery

fees will continue to apply. This is because staffing, premises and other operational costs continue despite the temporary disruption.

Examples may include, but are not limited to:

- severe or extreme weather
- flooding
- snow and ice
- extreme heat
- power failures
- water supply interruptions
- gas or utility failures
- emergency building issues
- public health emergencies
- government or local authority advice
- emergency service restrictions
- other unforeseen circumstances affecting the safe operation of the nursery

The nursery is not obliged to offer refunds, fee reductions or replacement sessions where closures or disruption occur due to circumstances beyond its reasonable control.

However, EDG Nursery is committed to acting fairly and reasonably. Where appropriate, and entirely at the discretion of the Directors, the nursery may consider offering:

- alternative sessions
- replacement sessions, subject to availability
- partial fee adjustments
- other reasonable arrangements

Each situation will be assessed individually, taking into account the nature of the incident, the duration of the disruption and the operational impact on the nursery.

Any goodwill gesture made by the nursery does not create an ongoing entitlement or establish a precedent for future incidents.

Nursery-Caused Closures

Where closure or disruption occurs due to circumstances that are wholly within the nursery's control, management may, at its discretion, consider:

- offering alternative sessions
- providing replacement sessions where available
- partial fee adjustments
- other reasonable arrangements

Each situation will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The nursery's intention is always to act fairly and reasonably while balancing the needs of families and the operational sustainability of the setting.

Communication with Parents

The nursery will communicate any significant operational changes through:

- the nursery app
- email
- telephone where necessary
- notices on nursery communication platform

Parents are responsible for ensuring their contact details remain up to date.

Related Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Health and Safety Policy
- Emergency Evacuation Procedures
- Lockdown Policy
- Business Continuity Policy
- Admissions and Parent Agreement
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy

