



*Village Hall, Chapel Road, Fingringhoe, Colchester, CO5 7BH*

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*Registered Charity No. 1202216*

## **Adverse weather policy**

### **Statement of Intent**

During adverse weather conditions it is our intention to strive to provide uninterrupted provision of our high-quality childcare and education service while upholding our duty to ensure the safety and welfare of the children, their families and staff.

### **Aim**

We aim to achieve this by having clear procedures and definite criteria in place on which to make an informed decision when faced with possible closure.

### **Method**

The decision to close Pre-school shall be made using the following criteria:

- Is the Pre-school building and its site safe?
- Is the car park safe to drive in and out off?
- Is the temperature within Pre-school reasonable? Health and Safety legislation (The workplace Health, Safety and Welfare Regulations 1992 states....'during working hours, the temperature in all workplaces inside buildings shall be reasonable'.  
The associated Approved Code of Practice says 'the temperature in workrooms should provide reasonable comfort without the need for special clothing'.  
The EYFS says, 'rooms should be maintained at a temperature which ensures the comfort of the children and staff, including non-mobile children'.
- Can reasonable steps be taken to achieve a temperature which is comfortable for both children and staff?
- Can the Manager staff the sessions adequately? If staff are unable to get to work and ratios cannot be maintained, we will not open the pre-school.

The final decision will be a joint one between the Pre-school Manager and the Committee Chairperson. The decision shall be reviewed on a day to day basis.

## **Staffing**

In the event of adverse weather forecast the Administration Manager will email all parents to communicate a closure and details will be posted on our Facebook page.

- Parents will be informed of any closure at the earliest possible opportunity.
- If staff cannot find alternative childcare arrangements, then it may be possible for staff to bring their children into pre school.
- Staff members need to make independent decisions on their ability to attend work in severe weather conditions.

Their safety is paramount and they should not put themselves at risk.

## **Parents/Carers**

- If you do not see a post on our Facebook page or receive an email to inform you of a closure, then pre school is open.
- Parents/carers need to make independent decisions on their ability to reach pre school in adverse weather conditions. The safety of the children and their families is paramount and they should not put themselves at risk.
- If the decision is made to close pre school, a refund of fees will be offered or opportunities explored to offer alternative funded sessions.
- If the pre school is open and children do not attend, fees will still be charged. This policy will also be applied when the Pre-school is faced with adverse conditions beyond our control such as burst pipes, broken heating etc.