



Adverse Weather Conditions Policy

The Preschool will make every effort to remain open, whenever possible, providing it is safe to do so.

The decision to close the Preschool will be made by a management and the Preschool committee. The Preschool will aim to give as much notice to parents as possible. Parents will be notified by 7.30am (on the day of closure) at the latest via Learning Journals or a message from the preschool mobile in the first instance and then also via Preschool social media pages/DCC updates.

If Preschool is open but the road conditions are difficult, parents should notify the Preschool to advise that they are likely to be late/absent. The Preschool fully appreciates that in bad weather children may arrive later than usual or may not be able to attend.

The Preschool will only be closed if one or more of the following conditions apply:

- Insufficient staff are safely able to come in to maintain children to staff ratios – every effort will be made to contact bank or committee staff to maintain ratios where possible to avoid closure. *Preschool will also inform Ofsted and The Early Years Team in this instance*
- Conditions on site are dangerous.
- Conditions are considered or are anticipated to later become too hazardous to travel.
- No hot water
- Inadequate heating/cooling in the building.

Snow or Icy conditions

In the event of anticipated heavy snow fall or dangerous icy conditions, Lymestone Preschool will carefully monitor the weather forecast. If it is deemed that the travel for staff and children will be unsafe or the Preschool grounds are unsafe, we may make the decision to close partially for the day or fully.

In the event of heavy snowfall during the school day.

- If there is heavy snowfall during the school day, management will decide whether it is necessary to close the Preschool and notify parents via Learning Journals or a message from the preschool mobile to request that they pick their child/children up from Preschool as soon as possible.
- Staff living furthest from the preschool will be permitted to leave as early as ratios allows.
- The Preschool will maintain children to staff ratios until all children have been collected.
- If a parent should call to request that they pick their child up early due to the weather, and the decision has not yet been made to close the Preschool, these requests will be granted.

Heatwave

In the event of a heatwave, the Preschool will constantly be risk assessing the weather and deciding on how much time the children should be allowed to spend outside. All children will be required to bring the correct clothing and sun protection (please refer to our Sun Care Policy), and extra shade will be provided for the children when they are outside. In addition to this, we will encourage everyone

(including the staff team) to drink more water to stay hydrated and have a cool-down inside, making use of our air conditioning unit, when a child starts to get too hot. The Preschool will only close if there is no air conditioning due to a power shortage or water is not accessible due to mains issues.

Wind

In the event of seriously strong winds we will endeavour to keep open if possible. Risk assessments will be completed to ensure all equipment and trees outside are safe and not likely to blow away or fall. Any equipment that can be moved inside or into a shed will be to keep safe. If the wind is so strong that it is deemed unsafe to enter our building (which is a prefabricated building and therefore not structurally equipped to withstand trees falling on it), or a weather warning is put in place not to go outside, the setting may have to close.

Flood

In the event of a flood, the Preschool will not stay open to ensure the safety of children, staff, and families. If there is a high forecast of heavy rain with a high chance of floods, then the setting will factor in the risks and decide whether to open on the day. In the unlikely event that a flood occurs whilst the setting is in session, families will be contacted immediately to collect.

Staff shortage

Due to certain weather conditions, members of the Preschool Team may not be able to get to work. In this event, we will contact other team members to see if they can cover for them. If we cannot get enough staff in to meet legal staff/child ratios we may be required to close for the day or only open to a limited cohort of children. In that case we will offer spaces on a need basis first.

This policy was agreed by Lympstone Preschool Committee

Date: 22/07/2023

Last reviewed

Date: 11/03/2026