Little 1 Nursery

11.1 Adverse Weather and Unexpected Closure Policy

During periods of adverse weather, we will always do our very best to keep the setting open, provided it is safe for children, families, and staff.

The number of children we can accommodate may be dependent on staffing levels, as we must continue to maintain statutory staff-to-child ratios. We will carry out a risk assessment and take into consideration staffing availability, heating, food supplies, and the overall safety of the environment.

We may need to operate reduced opening hours, opening later than 8:00am and/or closing earlier than 5:45pm, to allow staff to travel safely. We may not be able to confirm opening arrangements until we know how many staff members are able to reach the nursery safely. We will keep our families updated with any changes to opening and closing times via messaging on our software app. Previously, reduced operating hours have been 9:00am to 4:00pm.

If attendance needs to be limited, priority may be given to children of parents and carers working in key services, such as healthcare, emergency services, and education.

If you attempt to travel to the nursery during snowy or icy conditions, please be aware that the hill on Valley Road can become particularly hazardous. Please take extra care when driving or walking and exercise caution in the nursery car parks.

If weather reports advise of worsening conditions during the day, we may need to amend our opening hours or request early collection of children. Parents and carers will be informed as soon as possible if this becomes necessary.

Loss of Essential Services

In addition to adverse weather, unforeseen circumstances such as power outages or the loss of essential services may affect the nursery's ability to operate safely.

Should the nursery experience a significant loss of heating, electricity, lighting, or running water, a risk assessment will be carried out immediately. If we are unable to maintain a safe and suitable environment for children, we may reduce opening hours, request the early collection of children, or close the setting until the issue has been resolved.

If power cuts off for more than 2hours or we have no water we will call and ask for children to be collected.

Hot Weather

During periods of extreme heat, if temperatures reach a level where we are unable to maintain a safe and suitable environment, or if official weather or public health guidance advises that it is unsafe to remain open, the nursery reserves the right to reduce opening hours or temporarily close in the interests of children's welfare. Parents and carers will be informed of any changes to our usual operating arrangements as soon as possible.

Red Weather Warnings

In the event of a red weather warning, we may need to reduce opening hours, limit attendance for younger children, or close the setting entirely if required to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children, families, and staff.

Communication During Adverse Weather or Unexpected Closures

In the event of adverse weather, utility failure, or any other unforeseen circumstance affecting our ability to operate normally, parents and carers will be informed as soon as possible via the nursery website, email, and other nursery communication systems where available.

Where a delayed opening is necessary, we will aim to notify families as early as possible. However, this may not always be possible until staffing levels and site safety have been fully assessed.

Families are encouraged to make their own assessment of local travel conditions and should not attempt to travel if they believe it is unsafe to do so.

Emergency Contacts and Collection Arrangements

Parents and carers must ensure that all emergency contact details are kept up to date and that authorised collectors are available in the event of an emergency or unexpected closure.

One of the 3 named emergency contacts but be available at all times.

Where children need to be collected early due to deteriorating weather conditions, loss of essential services, or other unforeseen circumstances, we will contact parents and carers using the details held on record.

Fees During Closures

As outlined in our Terms and Conditions, we are unable to offer refunds or alternative sessions for closures resulting from adverse weather conditions or other circumstances beyond the nursery's control.

Communication

We will keep families informed via the nursery website, Little 1 Nursery, and by email using the main email address held on record for parents and carers.