

Abacus Nursery - Adverse Weather

EYFS: 3.58

At Abacus Nursery this policy is in place to ensure our nursery is prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running of the nursery such as floods, snow and heat waves.

The health and safety of the children, parents and staff is paramount. Abacus Nursery will remain open whenever practically possible. Management will make a decision at the earliest possible opportunity should it be deemed necessary to close. We would take into consideration the suitability of the premises (heating, access etc), staffing (sufficient staff able to make it into work and meet ratios) and media information (public transport, weather reports for the rest of the day etc). An indicator we rely on is if the bus operators decision is to run or not, because if roads are considered too treacherous for buses this is sufficient for Abacus to know that we will not put staff at risk on the roads to travel to or from work.

If the weather is so severe and a decision can be made the night before, this will be announced by detailed on the notice board in the porch for parents collecting children that day and on Tapestry at the earliest opportunity to allow parents to plan ahead. Where a firm decision cannot be made for the following day parents are asked to check Tapestry for up-to-date information. Where possible a decision would be made at 7ish each morning.

If the nursery is open, all staff that can arrive safely would be expected. Those staff unable to work will need to take the time off as annual leave. In line with our Fee Policy, shared on admission, we continue to charge for absences out of our control such as adverse weather. In the event of staff shortages due to snow or other severe weather, we will contact any off duty staff for their support.

When weather deteriorates as the day progresses, a further decision may be taken to close early. In these instances parents would receive a call to collect their child. **It is essential parents keep our records up to date with latest contact details (or a different number given for the specific days in the event of an emergency closure).** We are unable to operate outside of the legal child:staff ratio so as soon as staff are sent home early for safe travel (staff living the furthest away/more dangerous journeys will be allowed to leave first) children would need to be sent home as well.

If we are open a full risk assessment of the nursery site will be carried out concerning snow, ice etc. Where we judge it unsafe, children will not play outside for risk of flying debris in high winds, slips/trips on ice etc.

Highways make it very clear that we are not to clear/treat with salt the roads outside of nursery, this is managed by them and we could be held liable if there is an accident. In light of this we are unable to accept Voluntary help. We take this same procedure for the drive. Grit/Sand will be applied to provide a safer walkway and warning signs will be displayed to advice people/vehicles entering/exiting to be careful and that they do so at their own risk.

In the case of a flood we will follow our Critical Incident Policy to enable all children and staff to be safe and continuity of care to be planned for. In an extreme situation where the nursery is unsafe to inhabit we would need to close. Parents would be kept updated by Tapestry (see above).

Heat wave

Please refer to our sun care policy.

Any closures or reduction in opening hours will be detailed in the diary.