

## Policy

It is Tiny Oaks Day Nursery policy to make every effort to operate a normal service whenever possible.

This policy is in place to ensure our nursery is prepared for all adverse weather such as floods, snow, and heat waves.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability for the nursery to operate safely, we will contact parents via phone/email/social media.

## Procedure

### Flood

There is always a danger of flooding from adverse weather conditions or through the water/central heating systems. We cannot anticipate adverse weather; however, we can ensure that we take care of all our water and heating systems through regular maintenance and checks to reduce the option of flooding in this way. Our central heating systems are checked and serviced by a registered gas engineer, and they conform to all appropriate guidelines and legislation.

If flooding occurs during the nursery day, the nursery manager will decide based on the severity and location of this flooding, and it may be deemed necessary to follow the evacuation procedure. In this instance children will be kept safe, and parents will be notified in the same way as the fire procedure.

Should the nursery be assessed as unsafe through flooding, fire, or any other incident we will follow our evacuation plan and provide care in our place of safety until children can be collected. This place is .....

### Snow

Snow fall levels will be monitored throughout the day and any decisions made will take into account the safety of the children, parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the nursery day we will contact all parents by phone in the first instance to arrange for collection of their child.

The nursery may reduce their operating hours if one or more of the following applies.

- Insufficient staffing levels, therefore breaching legal ratios

- In the event of staff shortages due to snow we will contact all available off duty staff and/or agency staff and group the children differently until they are able to arrive. If we are unable to maintain statutory ratio requirements after all avenues are explored, we will contact Ofsted to inform them of this issue, recording all details in our incident file.
- Conditions on site are dangerous and/or Health and Safety cannot be maintained
- Conditions are considered hazardous for children, families, and staff to travel
- Parents and Carers will be regularly updated to any operational changes either by nursery notices (pre-warning), telephone, email, and social media.

## Heat Wave

Children cannot control their body temperature as efficiently as adults during hot weather because they do not sweat as much and so can be at risk of ill-health from heat.

Heat-related illness can range from mild heat stress to potentially life-threatening heatstroke. The main risk from heat is dehydration (not having enough water in the body). If sensible precautions are taken children are unlikely to be adversely affected by hot conditions.

The garden is used by the children daily throughout the year and will also be available during the hot summer months. As part of the daily routine nursery staff will discuss with parents and children the importance of suitable clothing for varying weather conditions. During warm weather children will learn about keeping safe in the sun with skin care and hydration. To ensure the safety and well-being of the children the nursery will work within the following measures.

- Staff should check the UV rays and the strength of the sun daily so they can make day to day decisions about the length of time the children can spend outdoors by check UV readings at [UV index forecast - Met Office](#)
- The nursery will refrain from using the outdoor area between the hours of 11am-3pm if there is not adequate shading in very warm temperatures (times may vary and be extended dependent on the strength of the sun and the UV rays)
- Staff will ensure there is lots of water and ice play throughout the day
- Staff will ensure children are not over dressed

# Adverse Weather



- Drinking water will constantly be available for children and staff to access
- Both children and staff will be encouraged to stop and sit for a drink regularly
- Vigorous activities both indoors and out will be avoided
- All spaces available throughout the nursery will be accessed, to reduce group sizes to aid reducing the amount of body heat within the room
- Lights will be kept off to reduce unnecessary additional heat
- Changes to menus to serve cooler foods will be considered, such as pasta salads to help reduce the heat in and from the kitchen
- Excessive use of electrical equipment will be avoided to reduce unnecessary additional heat
- Windows will be kept closed or open slightly if the air outside is warmer than inside
- Cooler units / air conditioning units will be used if needed
- Blinds or curtains will be kept closed or windows to be covered
- A reduction in opening hours may be considered

## Further Guidance

- Sun Safe Nurseries <https://www.sunsafenurseries.co.uk/>
- Met Office <https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/uv-index-forecast/#?tab=map&map=MaxUVIndex&zoom=5&lon=-4.00&lat=55.71&fcTime=1629428400>

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
16/1/2023	<i>m khaira</i>	16/01/2024