



## Micheldever & Stratton Preschool Adverse Weather Policy (Revised 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022)

*Working in conjunction with the Early Years Foundation Stage Statutory Framework (EYFS).*

Quality and Consistency.

A Secure Foundation.

Partnership Working.

Equality of Opportunity.

**Unique Child   Positive Partnerships   Enabling Environment   Learning and Developing**

### Introduction

At Micheldever & Stratton Preschool we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our preschools are prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running and safety of the setting such as floods, snow and heatwaves.

If any of these incidents impact on the ability of the setting to open or operate, we will follow direction from the preschool committee, and contact parents via Tapestry. Ideally before 8am.

Parents are advised to check both Tapestry and our preschool website for updates.

In the instance of any threats of adverse weather during operational hours we may not take children outdoors where we judge that weather conditions make it unsafe to do so.

### Procedures

#### *Flood*

In the case of a flood our first priority will be the safety of children, staff and visitors, and we will liaise with the Preschool committee and take direction from the emergency services. We will inform parents as soon as reasonably possible via Tapestry and telephone to enable all children to be safely collected.

#### *Snow or other severe weather*

In the case of snow, or another severe weather conditions such as dense fog, as soon as we are aware it is likely to have an impact during the session, the manager will take the decision as to whether to close the setting. This decision will take into account the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the session, we will contact all parents via Tapestry and telephone to arrange for collection of their child.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow or other adverse weather, we will contact all available off duty staff and may group the children differently until they are able to arrive. If we are unable to maintain statutory ratio requirements after all avenues are

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explored we will contact Ofsted to inform them of this issue. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is compromised then we may take the decision to close the pre-school.

### *Heat wave*

During prolonged periods of outside temperature's rising above 30 degrees Celsius, we will reduce the times the children spend outside, and ensure children have access to plenty of fresh drinking water and wear hats and sun cream factor 30 plus at all times when outside. Children must arrive with sun cream on, children staying all day must have an all-day sun protection on. Staff will only apply sun cream if a child has a severe skin condition/allergy.

Micheldever & Stratton Preschool recognises that staff may face difficulties attending their place of work and returning home during periods of adverse weather conditions such as heavy snow falls, flooding, or other adverse weather conditions which may result in journeys to work being extremely hazardous. However, whilst Micheldever & Stratton Preschool is committed to protecting the health and safety of all its staff, it must ensure that disruption caused to its services remains minimal.

Where an employee experiences substantial difficulty in attending work due to adverse weather conditions, they should notify their respective line manager or other senior member of staff immediately to explain the circumstances.

### *Adverse weather conditions and staff safety*

Responsibilities of Staff • Staff should not put themselves at unnecessary or inordinate risk when attempting to attend work.

- It is the responsibility of the staff member to make every effort to attend for duty at their normal place of work, in accordance with their contract of employment. This includes adapting their means of travel if necessary, or using a combination of travel options, even if this results in arriving late for work. It should be noted that where additional expense is incurred as a result of using different travel methods these expenses cannot be reimbursed by Micheldever & Stratton Preschool.
- In the event of adverse weather conditions staff will take all reasonable steps to report his or her inability to attend work to their manager as soon as is practicably possible. This should be in line with the particular department's normal arrangements for reporting sickness absence or other unanticipated absence and this will apply for each day that the member of staff is unable to attend work. Please note that failure to comply with reporting arrangements may amount to unauthorised absence.
- In the event that a member of staff cannot attend work due to adverse weather, by agreement with their manager, any lost time will be treated in accordance with the options laid out in section 4 below. One or a combination of these options may be applied on each day of adverse weather conditions.

- If a member of staff has made all reasonable efforts to travel to their place of work but has failed due to adverse weather conditions or disruptions to public transport, upon agreement with the line manager, and subject to operational needs, the manager may agree one of the following options to account for time lost:

### *Options*

- Working from home (if practicable).
- Making up the time/hours lost (usually within one month). This is dependent on contracted hours.
- Taking unpaid leave.
- Or apply a combination of the above options.

### Adverse weather conditions

#### *Responsibilities*

Micheldever & Stratton Preschool has a duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 to ensure the safety of their employees, by carrying out risk assessments to assess the risks of activities and to put measures in place to control these risks and to inform the employees about these measures.

However, all staff, students, parent volunteers and visitors, along with children, must be made aware that their own personal safety and the safety of others will depend on the individuals themselves.

The greatest risk to be considered when carrying out activities outdoors is the weather. The weather can change from minute to minute and there is always the chance that the weather can change. Severe weather and extreme weather conditions can have a detrimental effect on health and safety.

#### *Procedures*

The weather should not be a barrier to providing sessions. Light rain, a breeze and 2-3 centimetres of snow all bring exciting learning opportunities to a preschool session. Staff, volunteers and children should all be suitably dressed in warm clothing, waterproof trousers and jackets, coats, scarfs, gloves, or sun hats and be wearing sturdy footwear i.e. wellington boots or walking boots.

Depending on the locations being used, there will be impact on the suitability of the weather and adverse weather conditions;

### Other Related Policies & Procedures

*The following policies provide additional information regarding the safeguarding and welfare of the children in our care:*

- *Children's Rights & Entitlement Policy*
- *Critical Incident Policy*

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- *Daily Running Policy*
- *Emergency Closure Policy*
- *Employment & Staffing Policy*
- *Environmental Policy*
- *Fire Safety & Emergency Evacuation Policy*
- *First Aid Policy*
- *Health & Safety Policy*
- *Lockdown Policy*
- *Operational Plan*
- *Outdoor Play Policy*
- *Outings & Visits Policy*
- *Parental Involvement Policy*
- *Physical Environment Policy*
- *Recording & Reporting of Accidents & Incidents Policy*
- *Risk assessments Policy*
- *Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy*
- *Sen/Inclusion Policy*

*This policy will be monitored and evaluated at committee meetings. It will be reviewed annually and unless new legislation or an incident occurs which requires an immediate review of this policy.*

**December 2022**

**Review Date: December 2023**

**\* This Notice was adopted by the committee on 26/01/21**

**Signed: Marcus Mann**\_\_\_\_\_

\*This document was agreed via email by our Trustees as we were unable to hold our policy meeting due to the Covid-19 virus (Jan 2021)

**Reviewed Date: 12/12/22**

**Signature: *Mrs N L Mann-Rae***

**Amendments:**

**Reviewed Date:**

**Signature:**

**Amendments:**

**Reviewed Date:**

**Signature:**

**Amendments:**

**Reviewed Date:**

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