Highmoor Nursery School
Adverse Weather Policy

At Highmoor Nursery School we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our Nursery is prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running of the Nursery such as floods, snow, wind and heatwaves.

If any of these impact on the ability of the Nursery to open or operate, we will contact parents via phone and email and put a message on our Facebook page.

We will not take children outside where we judge that weather conditions make it unsafe to do so.

Flood

In the case of a flood, we will follow our critical incident procedure to enable all children and staff are safe and continuity of care will be planned for.

Snow or other severe weather

If high snowfall, or another severe weather condition such as dense fog or wind is threatened during a Nursery day then the manager will decide whether to close the Nursery. 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 Nursery day, we will contact all parents and carers to arrange for collection of their child.

In the event of staff shortages due to snow or other severe weather, we will contact all available off duty 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. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is

compromised then we will take the decision to close the Nursery, but we will remain open if the Nursery Manager decides it is safe to do so.

Heatwave

Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun. Children will not be allowed in direct sunlight between 11.00am – 3.00pm on very hot days between March and October, following NHS sun safety advice. Shaded areas are provided to ensure children are able to still go out in hot weather, cool down or escape the sun should they wish or need to. For further details please refer to our sun care policy.

Managing Indoor Heat and Ventilation

• Climate Control Equipment: The nursery is equipped with 3 portable air conditioning units which will be deployed to key rooms (2 in the main room and 1 in the nest) to regulate indoor temperatures during severe heatwaves.

• Temperature Monitoring & Action: Staff will actively monitor room temperatures. If indoor temperatures rise significantly, we will ensure rooms are actively cooled using our portable units, blinds/curtains are drawn to block direct sunlight, and windows are managed safely to optimise airflow.

• Sleeping Conditions: For children sleeping during the day, we will strictly adhere to our Sleep Policy when ambient temperatures exceed the recommended room temperature range of 16°C to 20°C. This includes adjusting bedding (e.g., using lightweight sheets instead of heavy blankets) and positioning sleep mats away from direct sunlight or heavy heat spots.

• Hydration: During hot weather, staff will offer water to children much more frequently throughout the day, ensuring easy and constant access to fresh, cool drinking water.

• Clothing: Parents will be requested to dress children in loose, lightweight, breathable, and light-coloured clothing suitable for hot weather.

Please refer to our Safer Sleep policy for guidance about children sleeping in a heatwave.

There is no legal requirement to close the setting due to extremes of heat or cold, unless advised to do so by the Local Authority for the safety of the children. Decisions based around this will be made by the Nursery Manager after all appropriate action has been taken, for example, using heaters or air conditioning units and fans.

Policy Adopted on: 1st April 2025
Review date: November 2027

Signed: Gwen Pragnell

Name: Gwen Pragnell
Position: Owner Highmoor Nursery School
Date: 1st November 2027