



HIGHWORTH

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Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: Safety and Suitability of Premises, Environment and Equipment.

Promoting health and hygiene

Suitable weather

Policy statement

Vorda pre-school values the outdoor environment, we recognise the fact that children love to play and explore in our garden and benefit from the experience. The setting has a duty of care to staff and children at all times. This duty of care includes protection against inclement weather during times when children would normally be outside. Therefore, unless the weather conditions are extremely treacherous, the children will continue to use the garden during wet and sunny weather.

Aims

We ensure the well-being of children and staff during times of inclement weather by consistently implementing a planned strategy that will cater for all circumstances.

Procedures

- As part of the daily routine the manager or a senior staff member will decide if the weather conditions outside are considered to be unsuitable for children and staff.
- Inclement weather is generally defined as extreme heat, rain, lightning, or any other condition that is considered by the manager or senior staff member to be unsuitable.

Warm weather

Vorda pre-school will make every effort to ensure that both children and staff are able to enjoy the sun safely by taking the following steps;

- In the event of hot weather, parents are requested to apply sun cream to their child **BEFORE** their child arrives at pre-school. If a child is accessing flexi-care, then a member of staff will reapply the child's sun cream after lunch. This will **ONLY** be applied on condition the parent has signed a permission slip

giving permission for a member of staff to reapply the sun lotion. In addition, it is also the responsibility of the parent to ensure that they have provided sun lotion for their child, clearly labelled which is left in the office.

- Children are encouraged to bring hats to pre-school in hot weather to wear outdoors. Reminders will be given to children and parents about this. The setting has a supply of sun hats should children forget their own.
- A jug of water and cups will be placed outside on hot days, so drinking water is accessible to children at all times. Children will be encouraged to drink regularly.
- Outdoor activities are provided in shaded areas whenever possible.
- Children are encouraged to stay in the shade and when necessary in exceptionally hot weather, they may be encouraged to stay indoors.
- Wherever possible, staff and children will avoid going outside to play in hot weather between the hours of 12am and 2pm

Wet weather

Children love to play and explore in our garden and benefit from the experience. Unless the conditions are extremely treacherous, the children will continue to access the garden during wet weather. Therefore, to enable children to be able to access the outdoor environment;

- The setting has outdoor weather clothing, for example waterproof trousers and jackets. This enables children to access our outdoor provision in wet weather.
- Parents are requested that their child has a pair of named wellington boots that can be kept at the setting, for times when the grassy area gets muddy.
- In cooler weather parents need to ensure their child has a warm coat to wear underneath the settings waterproof jacket.

If the weather is severe enough that Vorda pre-school has to close, the decision will be made by the Manager or senior member of staff as early as possible. Generally, the pre-schools decision is based on the safety of all children and staff, this decision is not undertaken lightly but must incorporate consideration of the safety travelling to the pre-school.

If for any reason the setting has to close due to severe weather, we will send out an email as early as possible in the morning and, if able to access the website we will also put a note on the website.

If you are unsure whether Vorda pre-school will be open or not, please check your email BEFORE leaving home. If you have informed us that you do not have access to email, we will ring you by 9.30am. We will only ring parents in this instance.

In circumstances where the weather takes a turn for the worse during a session, the pre-school may contact all parents/carers and ask them to collect their children. At least two members of staff will remain at the setting until ALL children have been collected.

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Vorda pre-school

Held on
Date to be reviewed
Signed on behalf of the Management Committee
Name of signatory
Role of signatory (e.g. chair)