GEMS TINEY HOME NURSERY

HOME FROM HOME CHILDCARE

Adverse Weather Policy

Policy Statement

This policy supports the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements, ensuring a safe, healthy environment for children.

At Gems tiney Home Nursery, the safety and wellbeing of children, families, and staff are my highest priorities. This policy outlines the procedures I follow in the event of severe or adverse weather conditions to ensure the safety of everyone attending the nursery.

Aims and Objectives

To ensure children, staff, parents and carers remain safe during adverse weather conditions.

To provide clear guidance on how decisions are made regarding closure, safety, and communication.

To maintain open communication with parents at all times through the tiney app and by phone.

Types of Adverse Weather

This policy applies during extreme weather conditions including:

Heavy snow or ice that affects safe travel or access to the premises.

Storms, flooding, or high winds that could cause safety concerns.

Heatwaves or extreme cold where indoor temperatures cannot be maintained at a safe level.

Safety and Access

The safety of children, staff and families is always the priority.

If the surrounding roads or pathways become dangerous, or access to the setting is blocked, I may decide to close temporarily until it is safe to reopen.

I will ensure all outdoor areas are inspected for safety hazards before children play outside (e.g. icy paths, high winds, loose items).

During heatwaves, outdoor play may be restricted to cooler times of the day, and shade, hydration, and sunscreen will be prioritised.

Suitable Clothing and Changes to Plans

Parents and carers are asked to provide clothing and footwear suitable for the weather and planned activities, together with spare clothes. This may include waterproof coats, wellies, warm layers, hats and gloves in cold or wet weather, or sun hats and suitable lightweight clothing in hot weather.

Before outdoor play or an outing, I will consider the weather conditions, the clothing and footwear available for each child, and the safety of all children and staff. Suitable spare clothing will be used where available. If a child does not have appropriate clothing and suitable spares are unavailable, or conditions make an activity unsafe, I will adapt, postpone or cancel the planned activity for the group and provide a suitable alternative. This may mean staying indoors, choosing a sheltered location or shortening time outside.

Plans may change before or during an activity if the weather deteriorates or anyone becomes too cold, too hot or uncomfortable. The safety and wellbeing of everyone, including staff, will take priority over the planned activity. Parents will be informed of significant changes where appropriate.

Closure Procedures

If it becomes necessary to close due to severe weather, parents will be notified as early as possible via the tiney app, text, or phone call.

I will aim to provide at least one hour’s notice before the start of a session if the decision is made to close.

If the setting must close during the day due to deteriorating conditions, parents will be contacted immediately to arrange safe collection.

No fees will be charged for days when the setting is closed due to severe weather or safety concerns.

Transport and Travel Safety

Parents and carers are responsible for ensuring that journeys to and from the setting are made safely during poor weather.

Please do not take unnecessary risks if conditions are unsafe — communication is key, and absences due to severe weather will always be understood.

Continuity of Care and Learning

During prolonged closures (e.g. heavy snowfall), I will share ideas and activities via the tiney app to help parents continue early learning at home.

Communication will remain open to support families and provide reassurance.

Extreme Heat and Sun Safety

During hot weather, children will remain indoors or in shaded areas during peak hours.

I ensure children are hydrated regularly, dressed appropriately, and protected with sunscreen (as agreed in consent forms).

I monitor indoor temperatures and ensure ventilation and shade are used to maintain a comfortable environment.

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if there are significant changes to weather safety guidance or tiney procedures. Feedback from parents and carers is always welcomed.

Policy owner: Gemma Bayley
Reviewed: November 2026
Next review due: November 2027