



Adverse Weather and Emergency Closure Policy

Updated in line with EYFS 2026, KCSIE 2026, and Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

At Ringle Rainbow Nursery, we aim to remain open in all but the most exceptional weather conditions. This policy outlines the procedures to be followed in the event of adverse weather to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children, staff, and families, while meeting safeguarding expectations.

Closure Conditions

The nursery may close in the event of severe weather such as snow, flooding, or extreme heat, if any of the following apply:

- It is unsafe for children, parents, or staff to travel to the nursery
- Access to the nursery is obstructed or hazardous
- There is a risk of children or staff being stranded at the nursery

Risk Assessment and Decision Making

The Nursery Manager will conduct a dynamic risk assessment and consult with relevant staff and the provider where necessary. The final decision to open or close the nursery lies with the Nursery Manager, taking into account health, safety, and safeguarding duties.

Partial Opening or Delayed Start

Where full closure is not necessary, the nursery may operate a reduced schedule (e.g. staggered arrival/departure) to reduce risk. Parents are encouraged to walk if safe, and use caution in icy or snowy conditions. We may clear pathways directly outside the nursery premises.

Outdoor Play and Snow

Snow is viewed as a valuable sensory and learning experience. Children will go outside unless it is unsafe due to extreme temperatures or slippery surfaces. Parents should ensure children are dressed appropriately with boots, hats, and gloves. Activities will be adapted where required for SEND or very young children.

Emergency Closure During the Day

If the weather worsens during the day, a decision may be made to close early. Parents will be notified via BabysDays, email, and if possible, a sign at the nursery. Children will be supervised until collected. Any children not collected within a reasonable timeframe will be safeguarded in line with our non-collection procedures.

Safeguarding and Attendance Monitoring

Even during closures, attendance records must be maintained. Patterns of non-attendance will be reviewed to identify vulnerable children. In accordance with KCSIE 2026 and EYFS



2026, we will continue to ensure the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy is contactable during operational hours and responsible for responding to any child protection concern.

Where a child is known to social care, has an EHCP or other plan in place, appropriate professionals will be notified in the event of any closure impacting access to early education or supervision. This supports our duty to work collaboratively with agencies under Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026.

Parent Communication

Parents and carers will be notified of closures or partial openings through BabysDays, email, and if possible, a sign on the nursery door. Parents should ensure their contact details are kept up to date at all times.

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By: P Reidy