

HARVEY ROAD DAY NURSERY LIMITED



ADVERSE WEATHER POLICY

EYFS: 3.43 3.85 3.93

At Harvey Road Day Nursery Limited 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 and heat waves.

If any of these incident's impact on the ability of the nursery to open or operate, we will contact parents via phone/email/text message

We will not take children outdoors 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 to remain safe and for the continuity of care.

Snow or other severe weather

If high snowfall, or another severe weather condition such as dense fog, is threatened during a nursery day then the manager/deputy will take the decision as to 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 to arrange for the 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/or agency 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 the issue, recording all details on 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.

Sun and high temperature safety

We are committed to ensuring that all children are fully protected from the risks associated with hot weather and exposure to ultraviolet (UV) rays. We recognize that high temperatures and sun exposure can cause sun burn, dehydration or heat exhaustion. Severe sunburn during childhood can also increase the risk of developing malignant melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer) in later life.

Fresh, cool drinking water is freely available both indoors and outside throughout the day. All children are encouraged to drink water more frequently during warm weather to stay well hydrated and staff regularly remind and support children to take drinks, particularly during and after outdoor play.

Outdoor Environment.

We promote a balanced approach by enabling the children to enjoy outdoor learning safely whilst following UK Health Security Agency Guidance.

Staff complete ongoing risk assessments throughout the day, considering the temperature, UV Index, humidity, availability of shade and the individual needs of children. We follow clear procedures to keep children safe and healthy in the sun.

- We will advise parents to decide and agree on adequate precautions to protect children from burning, including those with more sensitive skin types and those that may be more tolerant to the sunshine, e.g. black and/or Asian Colouring. All children will have suncream applied throughout the day irrespective of skin tone although as people with naturally darker skin tones, such as brown or black skin, burn less easily and have a lower risk of skin cancer. But lower risk doesn't mean there's no risk. People with darker skin tones can still get sunburnt, although it is harder to recognize and therefore a greater risk of being undetected. People of all skin tones can get skin cancer, so it is important for everyone to think about protecting their skin when out in the sun.
- We ensure all children wear a clearly labelled sun hat whilst outdoors. Legionnaires hats are recommended as they provide additional protection i.e with an extended back and side to shields children's neck and ears.
- Children can have their own labelled high factor suncream with prior written consent for staff to apply or Nursery sun cream to be used during the day. This enables parents to provide suncream suitable for their own child's needs. The first application of the day should be done at home. Staff must be aware of the expiry date and discard suncream after this date. All opened suncream will be discarded following the summer season and new sun cream provided the following year. Suncream containing nut-based ingredients will not be allowed in the setting.
- Parents are requested to supply light-weight loose fitting cotton clothing for their child suitable for the sun with sleeves. Thin Strappy top will not be permitted.
- Children's safety and welfare in hot weather is the nursery's prime objective so staff will work closely with parents to ensure all appropriate cream and clothing is provided.
- Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun (UV level) children will not be allowed in the direct sunlight between 11.00am – 3.00pm on hot days from March to October, following NHS sun safely advice.
- Children will always have sun cream applied before going outside in the hot weather and at frequent intervals during the day.
- Children are encouraged to drink water more frequently throughout sunny or warm weather and this will be accessible both indoors and out.
- Children are made aware of the need for sun hats, sun cream and the need to drink more fluids during their time in the sun.
- Shaded area our 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.
- Staff to role model sun safe practice.

Vitamin D

Sunlight is important for the body to receive vitamin D. We need vitamin D to help the body absorb calcium and phosphate from our diet. These minerals are important for healthy bones, teeth and muscles.

Our body creates vitamin D from direct sunlight on our skin when we are outdoors. Most people can make enough vitamin D from being out in the sun daily for short periods with their hands and other body parts uncovered. Sun cream will stop the ultraviolet B (UVB) rays from reaching your skin, so part of your body should be uncovered and not have sun cream on. At nursery we find the right balance to protecting children from sunburn as well as allowing the skin to access the sun for the vitamin D benefits, e.g. hands will be left without sun cream but children will be fully monitored to ensure no hands are burnt. The benefits will be discussed with parents and their wishes will be followed with regard to the amount of sun cream applied

Indoor Environment

The Nursery will carry out daily risk assessments of the internal premises to determine if additional actions are required to achieve suitable conditions for Children and Staff. For example, if a room is naturally shaded throughout the day no additional action may need to be taken. If there are children or staff with complex health conditions or clinical vulnerability, appropriate medical advice may need to be sought to reduce the health risks from Heat.

Our Setting has stand-alone tower misting fans and oscillating mechanical wall fans in the children's rooms, which are used in accordance with the manufacturer's guidelines.

In our setting we will

- Open windows early in the morning to allow stored heat to escape from the building
- Close windows during the day when it is hotter outside than inside whilst considering the need to maintain adequate ventilation and air quality.
- Shade sun facing windows by closing curtains/blinds to keep the heat out.
- Switch off all electrical equipment, including computers, monitors and printers when not in use rather than leaving equipment in "standby mode"
- Rearrange/adjust our indoor space to maximize the use of spaces which are less likely to overheat, or to avoid direct sunlight into the room.
- Use oscillating mechanical fans and misting fans to increase air movement if temperatures are below 35C. separate risk assessments for safe use of electrical equipment will be carried out to ensure that there are no hazards such as tripping over or pulling wires, proximity to water, etc. fans will be pointed away from children/staff, so that they reduce the risk of dehydration and maximize the amount of air circulated.

Heatwave

During extreme hot weather conditions, or when an Amber or Red weather warning is issued by the met office; we will follow guidance as detailed in the Government looking after children and those in Early Years settings during heatwaves guidance.

Parents will be notified if this is going to lead to any changes to our operating hours, and the Nursery may in exceptional circumstances reserve the right to close earlier/not open in order to keep children/staff and parents safe.

All parents and staff will be informed of possible conditions caused by excessive heat, this includes heat stress, heat exhaustion and sun stroke. All children will be closely monitored and you may be asked to collect your child if they develop any signs/symptoms of heat related illness.

This policy was adopted on	Signed on behalf of the nursery	Date for review
July 2026	Suzanne Baldry - Manager	July 2027