# Beetley and District Preschool

Registered Charity: 1181636

# Part 5 – Operational Safety

# Policy 5.2 – All Weather Protection

## Purpose of this Policy

Beetley & District Preschool recognises that outdoor play is an essential part of children's learning, health and development. Exposure to a range of weather conditions supports resilience, physical development and wellbeing.

This policy outlines how the setting manages outdoor provision safely in varying weather conditions. The aim is not to avoid outdoor play, but to ensure that it takes place in a manner that is safe, proportionate and responsive to changing conditions.

This policy should be read alongside the Risk Assessment Summary and Responsibilities of Staff, Visitors and Contractors.

## General Approach

Outdoor play is offered daily wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so. Decisions about outdoor activities are based on professional judgement and dynamic risk assessment, taking into account:

- Current and forecast weather conditions
- The condition of outdoor surfaces
- The age and individual needs of children
- The availability of appropriate clothing

Staff continually assess the environment throughout the session and adapt activities if conditions change.

## Cold Weather

In colder conditions, children are encouraged to wear suitable warm clothing, including coats, hats and gloves. Parents are reminded to provide appropriate layers during the winter months.

Outdoor sessions may be adjusted in length depending on temperature and wind chill. Staff monitor children for signs of discomfort and ensure that children have opportunities to warm up indoors if needed.

The intention is to allow children to benefit from fresh air and physical activity while ensuring they remain comfortable and safe.

## Hot Weather and Sun Protection

In warm or sunny weather, additional precautions are taken to minimise the risk of overheating and sunburn. These include:

- Parents being asked to apply sunscreen before arrival
- Reapplying sunscreen during the session with parental consent where required
- Encouraging children to wear sun hats
- Making use of shaded areas
- Ensuring drinking water is readily available and encouraging the children to stay hydrated

Outdoor activity may be adapted or limited during periods of extreme heat.

## Wet or Windy Conditions

Outdoor play may continue in light rain provided children have suitable clothing and surfaces remain safe.

However, outdoor activities will be restricted if weather conditions present an increased risk. This may include:

- High winds that create a risk from falling debris or unsecured equipment
- Excessively slippery or waterlogged surfaces
- Reduced visibility

The Manager will make decisions based on safety and the best interests of the children.

## Severe Weather

Where severe weather warnings are issued or conditions become hazardous, the setting may need to take additional action. This could include adjusting session arrangements, restricting access to certain areas or, in rare circumstances, closing the setting.

Any decisions affecting opening hours will be communicated promptly to parents and carers.

## Monitoring and Review

Weather-related decisions are made on a daily basis and reviewed as conditions change.

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if required.

## Related Policies and Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Health & Safety Policy Statement
- Risk Assessment Summary
- Responsibilities of Staff, Visitors and Contractors
- Outings

**Policy reviewed on:** 1st March 2026
**Next review due:** 1st March 2027
**Reviewed by:** Hollie Durrant and Julie East

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| Date:<br><br>Signed:<br>Print Name:<br>(Chairperson) | Review Date:<br><br>Signed:<br>Print Name:<br>(Manager) |