

Adverse Weather Policy

Health and Social Care Standards:

4.11 I experience high quality care and support based on relevant evidence, guidance and best practice.

4.12 I receive proper notice and I am involved in finding an alternative if the service I use plans to close or can no longer meet my needs and wishes.

5.17 My environment is secure and safe.

Stramash will make every effort to keep the nursery open in adverse weather and to cause as little disruption as possible. However in cases of very extreme weather conditions Stramash may not be able to operate to its usual opening times. This may be due to staff shortages, dangerous conditions etc. Any decisions about opening/closing will be made by the Team Leader and will take into account the safety of the children, families, and the staff team.

As an outdoor nursery, Stramash sites may be impacted by adverse weather at times. Although Stramash recognises the importance of play in a variety of weathers, and advocates for this, there are boundaries in place where it is unsafe to do so. These boundaries are based upon judgement of the wind speed and gust, stormy weather or consistent snow which affect functionality of the setting (access, visibility etc).

All Stramash sites are provided with warm, dry spaces that can be used for infrequent bouts of adverse weather.

Where it is deemed unsafe to be on site due to inclement weather, reasonably practical arrangements should be made to provide the session from an alternative location - whether this is an indoor or an outdoor space will be based on the implications of the weather on that location also. Travel to and from this location must be considered (minibuses or parental drop off and pick up). If another site is used, it must be risk assessed and safety protocols in place prior to use, and must be fit to provide a quality environment with all necessary amenities.

As suggested in section 5 of ***Out To Play*** (2018)¹, each Stramash site has suitable contingency plans and procedures in place in the event of adverse weather preventing the use of the site. *For more information about specific contingency plans for each site, please speak to the Team Leader.*

¹ [Out To Play: Practical guidance for creating outdoor play experiences in early learning and childcare \(2018\) Care Inspectorate](#)

If an alternative site or location cannot be used, or travel is unsuitable, the Team Leader may take the decision to close the nursery. *For more information, please see the Closure of Nursery Policy.*

In all circumstances, Stramash aims to communicate with families in good time as is reasonably practical either by text, phone or email.