



Extreme & Outdoor Weather Policy & Procedure

Reviewed By: Tina Hobday

Reviewed on: August 2024

Next review: April 2027

Related Documents: Early Years & Lower School Handbooks, Outdoor Education Handbook, Risk Assessment Policy

Endorsement

Full endorsement is given to this policy by:

Name: Richard Nobles

Position: Cambridge Waldorf School Trustee

Signed:

Date: August 2024

Bad Weather

In bad weather conditions, such as heavy snow, un-driveable roads, or other dangerous circumstances, the School Leadership Team may decide to fully or partially close the school. Complete closure means that no teachers will be in attendance; partial closure means some teachers will be in attendance offering supervision of children.

Staff must inform the Teaching and Learning lead at the earliest opportunity if they know they will not be able to make it into school. The Teaching and Learning lead will hold oversight of which staff are able to attend, and will liaise with other staff about the need for any possible school closure.

Parents can find information about closures in the following ways:

- A message will be distributed by email;
- Where possible, a message will be distributed by the class representatives;
- Tune in to BBC Radio Cambridgeshire in the morning (95.7 FM, 96 FM, or DAB) or HEART FM for an announcement of school closures;
- Where possible, a message will be displayed on the school website;

- Where possible there may also be a message on the school answerphone.

During the winter months, the School will remind parents about the procedure e.g. via the newsletter.

Outdoor Weather Policy for KG Woodland Days

We go outside in all weathers, come rain or shine. Kindergarten children should bring their waterproofs to Kindergarten each day.

Parents should ensure that their child/children are appropriately dressed and prepared for the outdoors on woodland days. This should include:

- Long trousers and long sleeves;
- A labelled, waterproof rucksack with a buckle at the front;
- A set of spare clothes (very important for new, younger children);
- Strong, warm waterproof walking boots (not wellingtons);
- Waterproof trousers and jacket (dungarees are more difficult for toileting, but OK);
- Scarf, hat and waterproof gloves for colder days;
- Warm (preferably wool) layers on the body and legs, woollen socks, and a winter coat during colder months;
- A bottle with water (about half a litre) or thermal flask with warm tea in winter months;
- Sun hats in the summer (sun cream must be applied by the parents).

Clothing should allow comfortable and free play, inside and outside. Several layers are best, as layers can easily be taken off or put on. Natural materials like wool or silk help keep children warm even if they get a little damp.

If the temperature falls below -4 degrees Celsius or the winds are more than 35mph and/or 50mph gusts, we will implement our Woodland Inclement Weather Procedure (below) and the woodland day moves to the school. Children then attend the session in their Kindergarten from 8.30am to 3.00pm.

Woodland Inclement Weather Procedure

1. The Woodland Teacher is responsible for checking the weather forecast before going to the woodland. If the forecast is -4 degrees Celsius or below or winds are more than 35mph and/or 50mph gusts, children will not go to the woodland for a whole morning.
2. In cold weather, the woodland day will either move to the school, or children will stay outside for a shorter length of time and come back from the woodland early to have lunch indoors.
3. In high winds, the woodland day will either move to the school, or children might stay on open fields and the playground for part of the morning and come back from the woodland early to have lunch indoors.
4. The Woodland Teacher is responsible for deciding how the day will be structured in either case.
5. If children are in the woods and the weather unexpectedly changes, the default plan will be to leave the woods.

Lower School: Please see the Lower School Handbook, and the Outdoor Education Handbook for further information on appropriate gear for outdoor activities.