

Innsworth Preschool Hot and Cold Weather Policy

Last Updated: June 2026

1. Purpose and Scope

1.1 Purpose: This policy explains how Innsworth Preschool manages hot, cold, wet, windy and adverse weather to protect children's health, safety, welfare, comfort and dignity.

1.2 Operational Context: Innsworth Preschool is an active early years setting. Children take part in indoor play, outdoor learning, physical activity, messy play, seasonal activities, group routines and personal care. Weather conditions can affect children's safety, comfort, toileting, hygiene, concentration, wellbeing and ability to participate safely.

1.3 Child Vulnerability: Young children are more vulnerable than adults in hot, cold and changeable weather. They may not recognise when they are too hot, too cold, thirsty, tired, uncomfortable or becoming unwell. They may also be less able to regulate their body temperature, communicate their needs clearly, or take protective action without adult support.

1.4 Aim: The aim of this policy is to make sure that staff take reasonable and proportionate steps to manage weather-related risks, while making clear the responsibilities of parents and carers in sending children to preschool safely dressed and prepared for the conditions.

1.5 Scope: This policy applies to all children, parents, carers, staff, students, volunteers and visitors. It applies during normal sessions, arrivals, departures, indoor play, outdoor play, garden use, Farm Experience planting, growing, gardening, cooking and nature-based activities, outings, and any period where weather conditions may affect safety or welfare.

1.6 Parent Terms: Innsworth Preschool policies form part of the terms and expectations agreed with families. Parents and carers are expected to follow the setting's policies, procedures, safety expectations and lawful directions. This is

necessary so that the setting can meet its legal duties and keep children, staff and the wider preschool community safe.

2. Legal and Statutory Framework

2.1 Compliance: This policy supports our compliance with relevant law, statutory guidance and public health guidance, including:

- The Childcare Act 2006
- The Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage
- The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992
- The Children Act 1989 and Children Act 2004
- The Equality Act 2010
- UK Health Security Agency guidance relating to children and early years settings in hot weather
- Relevant NHS public health advice on heat, cold, sun safety and weather-related illness
- Relevant local authority, public health or emergency planning guidance where applicable

2.2 EYFS Duties: Innsworth Preschool must take reasonable steps to keep children safe, promote good health, manage risks, provide suitable premises and equipment, and respond appropriately where a child becomes unwell or unsafe.

2.3 Risk-Based Decisions: Weather-related decisions are made through risk assessment and professional judgement. There is no single temperature that determines every decision, because risk depends on the full circumstances, including the child, clothing, activity, indoor conditions, outdoor conditions, ventilation, shade, staffing, medical needs and available controls.

2.4 Health and Safety Duties: Hot and cold weather are foreseeable health and safety risks. The setting will take reasonable steps to reduce these risks but cannot remove every weather-related risk entirely.

2.5 Parent Cooperation: The setting cannot manage weather risks safely without parent cooperation. Parents must ensure children arrive dressed and prepared for the actual weather conditions and must respond promptly where the setting raises a weather-related safety or welfare concern.

3. Core Principles

3.1 Child Welfare First: Decisions under this policy will be based on the health, safety, comfort, dignity and welfare of the child and the wider group.

3.2 Reasonable Controls: The setting will use reasonable controls to manage weather-related risks. These may include changes to routines, clothing requirements, indoor and outdoor activity adjustments, increased drinks, shade, ventilation, heating, reduced physical activity, restricted activities, delayed handover, refusal of entry, or requiring collection where necessary.

3.3 Professional Judgement: Staff will use professional judgement when deciding whether a child is safely dressed, whether the environment is safe, whether activities should be adapted, and whether a child is coping in the conditions.

3.4 Setting Suitability: Clothing or arrangements that a parent considers suitable at home may not be suitable in a busy early years group-care environment. At preschool, children take part in active play, group routines, toileting, personal care, outdoor access, messy play, transitions and supervised group activities.

3.5 Actual Weather, Not Calendar Season: Children must be dressed for the actual weather and forecast conditions, not only the time of year. A summer day may still require waterproof clothing if it rains. A bright winter day may still require warm clothing. A spring or autumn day may become unusually hot or cold.

3.6 Prevention Over Reaction: The setting will take reasonable steps to prevent overheating, sunburn, heat exhaustion, dehydration, excessive cold exposure, discomfort, illness or avoidable distress.

3.7 Not a Punishment: Refusal of entry, delayed handover, restricted participation or collection under this policy is not a punishment. These are welfare,

safeguarding and health and safety decisions made to protect the child and the wider group.

3.8 Parent Views: Parents may hold a different view about whether clothing or weather protection is suitable. However, staff must make decisions based on the setting environment, group-care context, planned activities, children's age and development, and the setting's legal duties. Where staff judge that a risk cannot be managed safely, the setting's decision will apply.

3.9 Reasonable Adjustments: The setting will consider reasonable adjustments where a child has a disability, SEND, sensory need, medical condition, allergy, skin condition, continence issue, cultural need or religious requirement affecting clothing, temperature tolerance, sun protection or weather access. Adjustments must still allow the setting to keep the child and others safe.

4. Weather Risk Assessment and Professional Judgement

4.1 Daily Assessment: Staff will consider weather conditions as part of daily operational planning. This may include:

- Outdoor temperature
- Indoor temperature
- Weather forecast
- UV level
- Humidity
- Wind chill
- Rain, snow, ice or storms
- Air quality alerts
- Heat-health or cold-weather alerts
- Condition of outdoor areas
- Shade availability
- Ventilation
- Heating or cooling availability
- Children's ages, needs and health conditions
- Staffing levels and ratios
- The type of activities planned

4.2 Dynamic Risk Assessment: Weather risks can change during the day. Staff will reassess conditions where temperatures rise or fall, the weather changes suddenly, indoor conditions change, children appear uncomfortable, or planned activities no longer appear safe.

4.3 Combined Risk Factors: The setting does not rely on temperature alone. Decisions will consider the combined effect of temperature, humidity, UV level, indoor conditions, ventilation, shade, children's clothing, children's wellbeing, staffing, activities and any weather alerts or public health guidance.

4.4 Management Authority: The Manager, Deputy Manager, Room Lead or most senior staff member on site may make weather-related operational decisions. In an urgent situation, any staff member may take immediate action to protect a child.

4.5 Recording Significant Decisions: Significant decisions may be recorded, including refusal of entry, delayed handover, request for collection, restricted activity, closure, illness, accident, near miss, parent refusal to follow instructions, or repeated failure to provide suitable clothing or sun/cold weather protection.

5. Parent and Carer Responsibilities

5.1 Daily Responsibility: Parents and carers must ensure their child arrives each day:

- Fully dressed
- Weather-appropriately dressed
- In safe footwear
- With required sun protection or warm clothing
- With suitable spare clothing
- With clothing that supports toileting and personal care
- Ready to access preschool routines safely

5.2 Hot Weather: During hot, sunny or high-UV weather, parents must ensure children arrive in light, loose, weather-appropriate clothing, with sunscreen applied before arrival and a suitable named sun hat.

5.3 Cold Weather: During cold, wet or windy weather, parents must ensure children arrive with suitable warm clothing, which may include a coat, jumper, layers, full-length clothing, socks, secure footwear, hat, gloves and waterproof clothing where needed.

5.4 Spare Clothes: Spare clothing is for accidents, toileting, wet play and reasonable changes during the session. It is not a substitute for the child arriving properly dressed and ready for the weather at handover.

5.5 Setting Spare Clothing: The setting may have limited emergency spare clothing, but this is not guaranteed and must not be relied upon by parents. If setting spare clothing is used because suitable clothing was not provided, a reasonable laundry or replacement charge may apply where allowed under the setting's Fees, Funding and Charges arrangements.

5.6 Accurate Information: Parents must provide accurate information about allergies, medical needs, SEND, sensory needs, skin conditions, medication, sun sensitivity, heat sensitivity, cold sensitivity or any other matter that affects weather safety.

5.7 Following Staff Instructions: Parents must follow reasonable and lawful instructions given by staff at arrival, collection or during the day where these relate to weather safety, clothing, sun protection, cold protection, collection, restricted activities or child welfare.

6. Arrival, Handover and Suitability of Clothing

6.1 Ready for the Day: Children must arrive fully dressed, appropriately dressed and ready for preschool. This includes being dressed for the actual weather, forecast conditions and planned activities.

6.2 Handover Check: Staff may check at handover whether a child appears suitably dressed for the weather, footwear, toileting, personal care, dignity and activities of the day.

6.3 Immediate Remedy: If a child arrives in clothing or footwear that staff consider unsuitable, unsafe, incomplete, impractical or inappropriate for the weather, staff may require the issue to be corrected before accepting handover.

6.4 Refusal, Delay or Restriction: Where staff reasonably judge that a child's clothing, footwear, sun protection, warmth, or general presentation creates a health, safety, dignity, hygiene, safeguarding or welfare risk, the setting may refuse entry, delay handover, restrict activities, require the parent to correct the issue, or require collection.

6.5 Parent Must Resolve Arrival Issues: Where a child arrives over dressed, under dressed, incorrectly dressed or otherwise unsuitable for the conditions, the parent or carer must resolve the issue. Staff will not be expected to dress, undress or re-dress children for parents at arrival because the child was brought to preschool unsuitable for the weather.

6.6 Staff Support During Session: Staff will support children with ordinary clothing needs during the session, such as coats, hats, gloves, toileting-related clothing, waterproofs and spare clothes. However, this normal support does not replace the parent's responsibility to bring the child ready for preschool at handover.

6.7 No Routine Correction at Drop-Off: Staff will not routinely correct avoidable clothing issues at drop-off by removing excessive layers, changing a child into suitable clothes, adding missing clothing, or reorganising clothing that should have been corrected by the parent. Where clothing presents a safety or welfare concern, the parent may be asked to resolve it before the child enters.

6.8 Examples of Reasons Entry May Be Refused or Delayed: Entry or handover may be refused or delayed where concerns include, but are not limited to:

- A child arriving in a onesie
- A child arriving in sleepwear or nightwear
- A child arriving in heavy winter clothing during hot weather
- A child arriving in excessive layers during hot weather
- A child arriving without a sun hat during hot, sunny or high-UV weather
- A child arriving without sunscreen applied during hot, sunny or high-UV weather
- A child arriving in clothing that prevents safe cooling
- A child arriving in very thin clothing during cold weather
- A child arriving without a coat in cold or wet weather
- A child arriving in unsafe footwear
- A child arriving in clothing that prevents safe toileting or personal care
- A child arriving in clothing that creates a safeguarding, dignity, hygiene or safety concern
- A child arriving in clothing unsuitable for a known weather warning or forecast

6.9 Recording Decisions: Where entry is refused or delayed due to weather-related clothing or safety concerns, staff may record the concern, action taken, rationale, parent communication and whether the issue was resolved.

7. Hot Weather Procedure

7.1 Hot Weather Risk: Hot weather can increase the risk of overheating, sunburn, heat exhaustion, dehydration, tiredness, distress, reduced concentration and unsafe participation.

7.2 Reasonable Controls: During hot weather, the setting may use reasonable controls including:

- Using shade where available
- Using ventilation where safe and suitable
- Using fans or cooling equipment where risk assessed
- Closing blinds or curtains where needed to reduce direct sun
- Opening windows or doors where safe and appropriate
- Providing regular drinks throughout the session
- Reducing physical activity
- Offering calmer activities
- Reducing outdoor time
- Avoiding outdoor play during the hottest part of the day
- Moving activities to shaded or cooler areas
- Adapting Farm Experience planting, growing, gardening, cooking or nature-based outdoor learning
- Cancelling or postponing higher-risk activities
- Monitoring children more closely for signs of heat-related distress
- Asking parents to collect children who are not coping safely
- Closing early or closing the setting where safe operation cannot be maintained

7.3 Outdoor Play in Hot Weather: Outdoor play remains valuable but will be managed according to risk. Staff may:

- Use shaded areas only
- Shorten outdoor sessions
- Avoid vigorous running or high-energy activities
- Avoid equipment or surfaces that become too hot
- Keep children out of direct sun where possible
- Move children indoors if the outdoor area becomes unsuitable
- Suspend outdoor play completely if needed

7.4 Physical Activity: During very hot weather, staff may reduce or stop vigorous physical activity, including running games, climbing, racing, dancing, chasing games or extended outdoor exertion.

7.5 Drinks: The setting will provide regular drinks. Children will be encouraged to drink throughout the session. Staff will not force children to drink but will encourage, remind and support children in an age-appropriate way.

7.6 Indoor Heat: If indoor rooms become hot, staff will use available reasonable controls. If indoor temperatures become unsafe, uncomfortable or unmanageable despite controls, the Manager may alter the session, contact parents, restrict activities, close a room, close early or close the setting.

7.7 Air Conditioning: Where air conditioning is unavailable, awaiting installation, under repair or temporarily out of use, the setting will use other reasonable controls. Air conditioning is helpful but not the only control measure. However, where the absence of cooling makes safe operation impractical, the setting may take further action.

8. Hot Weather Clothing and Sun Protection

8.1 Parent Responsibility: Parents and carers must ensure their child arrives dressed appropriately for hot weather.

8.2 Required Hot Weather Clothing: During hot, sunny or high-UV weather, children must arrive wearing:

- Light, loose and weather-appropriate clothing
- Clothing that allows airflow and supports cooling
- Clothing that protects the shoulders from sun exposure
- Safe, secure footwear suitable for preschool play
- A named sun hat
- Sunscreen already applied before arrival

8.3 Unsuitable Hot Weather Clothing: Children must not be sent in clothing that is too warm, restrictive or unsafe for hot weather. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Onesies
- Fleece onesies
- Thick tracksuits
- Heavy jumpers

- Thick coats
- Winter clothing
- Multiple unnecessary layers
- Heavy tights or thermal layers in hot weather
- Thick costumes or fancy dress
- Sleepwear
- Clothing that covers the child excessively for the temperature
- Clothing that prevents staff from keeping the child cool
- Clothing that makes toileting, nappy changing or intimate care difficult
- Clothing that increases the risk of overheating

8.4 Onesies: Onesies are not permitted for ordinary preschool attendance. They are not suitable for active play, weather management, toileting, personal care, hygiene, dignity or school-readiness routines. In hot weather, onesies create an additional risk because they can make it harder for a child to cool down and harder for staff to support personal care quickly and safely.

8.5 Sunscreen Before Arrival: Where sunscreen is required due to sun, heat or UV risk, parents must apply it before arrival unless a documented medical, allergy, skin, SEND or reasonable-adjustment arrangement has been agreed with the setting in advance.

8.6 Sunscreen Responsibility: Sunscreen is a parental responsibility. Parents must choose a sunscreen suitable for their child's age, skin type, allergies, medical needs and family preference.

8.7 Named Sunscreen: Parents should provide named sunscreen where required by the setting, particularly for longer sessions or where reapplication may be needed. Sunscreen must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

8.8 Consent and Safe Application: Staff will only apply or reapply sunscreen in line with the setting's permissions, allergy information, skin-sensitivity information and agreed procedures. Parents must provide accurate information about sunscreen allergies, skin conditions or medical restrictions.

8.9 Allergy or Skin Needs: If a child has eczema, sensitive skin, allergy, medical needs or requires a specific sunscreen, parents must provide suitable information

and the required product. Where necessary, this may be recorded in an individual healthcare plan, allergy plan, medical plan or reasonable-adjustment plan.

8.10 No Sunscreen or Hat: If suitable sun protection is not in place, the setting may restrict outdoor access, require the parent to apply sunscreen before leaving, ask the parent to provide suitable sunscreen or a suitable hat, or refuse entry/require collection where the risk cannot be managed safely.

8.11 Overdressing: If a child arrives overdressed for hot weather, staff may require the parent to correct the issue before handover. Where the risk cannot be resolved promptly, the setting may refuse entry, delay handover, restrict activities or require collection.

9. Heat-Related Illness and Collection

9.1 Monitoring: Staff will monitor children for signs that they may be struggling with heat. This may include:

- Flushed skin
- Excessive sweating
- Unusual tiredness
- Drowsiness
- Irritability or distress
- Headache complaints
- Dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Muscle cramps
- Refusing food or drink
- Reduced responsiveness
- Unusual behaviour
- A child not seeming themselves
- Hot skin
- Pale, clammy or very dry skin
- Rapid breathing or rapid pulse
- Confusion
- Collapse

9.2 Immediate Action: Where a child appears affected by heat, staff may move the child to a cooler area, offer drinks, reduce activity, monitor the child, contact parents, seek medical advice or follow first aid procedures as appropriate.

9.3 First Aid: Where staff believe a child may be suffering from heat exhaustion, heatstroke, dehydration or another medical concern, staff will follow first aid procedures and seek medical advice or emergency assistance where needed.

9.4 Collection: If a child appears to be struggling with the heat, becomes unwell, is unusually tired, distressed, overheated, or is not coping safely in the conditions, parents or carers will be contacted and may be required to collect the child promptly.

9.5 Emergency Medical Attention: If a child shows signs of serious illness, collapse, confusion, seizure, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulty, or staff are seriously concerned, staff will call 999 and follow medical advice.

9.6 Parent Disagreement: If a parent disagrees with the setting's decision that a child should be collected, the Manager or senior staff member will explain the welfare concern. The setting's decision will be based on child safety and professional judgement. Refusal to collect a child who is unwell or unsafe may be treated as a safeguarding or parent partnership concern.

10. Cold Weather Procedure

10.1 Cold Weather Risk: Cold weather can increase the risk of children becoming too cold, uncomfortable, wet, unable to participate safely, or unable to regulate their body temperature.

10.2 Reasonable Controls: During cold weather, the setting may use reasonable controls including:

- Heating indoor spaces where available
- Monitoring room comfort
- Adjusting outdoor play
- Shortening outdoor sessions
- Cancelling outdoor activities where needed
- Avoiding icy or unsafe areas

- Using indoor alternatives
- Encouraging movement where safe
- Monitoring children for cold-related discomfort
- Contacting parents where clothing is inadequate
- Requiring collection where a child cannot be kept warm or safe

10.3 Outdoor Play in Cold Weather: Children may still access outdoor learning in cold weather where it is safe and beneficial. Outdoor play may be shortened, adapted or cancelled depending on the weather, children's clothing, ground conditions and staff judgement.

10.4 Ice, Snow and Frost: Staff will risk assess outdoor areas before use. Areas may be closed or restricted where there is ice, snow, frost, slippery surfaces, frozen equipment, falling branches, unsafe paths or other hazards.

10.5 Wind Chill: Staff will consider wind chill as well as the temperature reading. A dry, bright day may still be unsafe or uncomfortable if wind chill is significant.

10.6 Indoor Cold: Where indoor heating fails or indoor spaces become too cold for safe care, the setting may move rooms, use safe temporary controls, reduce the session, delay opening, close early or close the setting.

11. Cold Weather Clothing

11.1 Parent Responsibility: Parents and carers must ensure their child arrives dressed appropriately for cold, wet or windy weather.

11.2 Required Cold Weather Clothing: During cold or wet weather, children must arrive with suitable clothing, which may include:

- Warm coat
- Jumper or suitable layers
- Full-length clothing
- Socks
- Secure closed-toe footwear
- Hat and gloves where needed
- Waterproof coat or outer layer in wet weather
- Weather-appropriate spare clothes

11.3 Unsuitable Cold Weather Clothing: Children must not be sent in clothing that is too thin, exposed or unsuitable for the weather. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Very short outfits in cold weather
- Summer dresses without suitable layers
- Shorts without appropriate warmth where conditions require coverage
- Thin T-shirts without suitable layering
- Open footwear in cold or wet weather
- No coat in cold or wet weather
- Clothing that becomes wet easily and leaves the child cold
- Clothing that does not allow the child to participate safely

11.4 Underdressing: If a child arrives underdressed for cold or wet weather, staff may require the parent to correct the issue before handover. Where the risk cannot be resolved promptly, the setting may refuse entry, delay handover, restrict activities or require collection.

11.5 Coats and Outdoor Access: A child who does not have suitable outdoor clothing may be unable to access outdoor activities. If outdoor access is an important part of the session and the setting cannot safely manage the child indoors separately, the parent may be required to provide suitable clothing promptly or collect the child.

12. Wet, Windy and Adverse Weather

12.1 Rain: Rain does not automatically stop outdoor play. Children may still go outside where it is safe, beneficial and manageable.

12.2 Waterproof Clothing: In wet weather, children should arrive with a suitable coat or waterproof outer layer.

12.3 Summer Rain: Even during warmer months, children still need a suitable coat or waterproof layer if it is raining or forecast to rain.

12.4 Wet Clothing: If a child becomes wet during the session, staff will use available spare clothing where appropriate. Parents must provide suitable spare

clothes. If no suitable dry clothing is available, parents may be asked to bring clothing promptly or collect the child.

12.5 Wind: Outdoor areas may be restricted or closed during high winds where there is a risk from trees, branches, fences, outdoor equipment, loose items, debris, structures or unsafe movement.

12.6 Storms and Lightning: Outdoor play will be stopped or restricted where storms or lightning create a foreseeable risk. Children will be moved indoors or to a safer area as appropriate.

12.7 Air Quality and Environmental Alerts: Where there are air quality warnings, smoke, pollution, wildfire smoke, high pollen, or other environmental concerns, the setting may restrict outdoor access, adapt activities, close windows, contact parents or follow public health advice.

13. Children Not Coping with Weather Conditions

13.1 Staff Judgement: Staff will use professional judgement to decide whether a child is coping safely with the weather conditions.

13.2 Hot Weather Concerns: A child may be considered not to be coping in hot weather if they are unusually tired, distressed, flushed, overheated, refusing drinks, complaining of feeling unwell, vomiting, dizzy, not acting normally, or unable to participate safely.

13.3 Cold Weather Concerns: A child may be considered not to be coping in cold weather if they are shivering, very cold to touch, distressed, wet through, unusually tired, pale, unable to participate, complaining of pain or discomfort, or unable to warm up despite reasonable controls.

13.4 Parent Contact: Parents may be contacted and asked to collect promptly where a child is not coping with the weather or the setting cannot safely manage the risk.

13.5 Collection Requirement: Where the setting decides that collection is required for weather-related welfare or illness reasons, parents must collect promptly or arrange for an authorised adult to collect.

13.6 Failure to Collect: Failure to collect a child when required may be treated as a safeguarding concern and may also trigger a review under the setting's parent terms, admissions procedures or parent conduct expectations.

14. Medical, Allergy, SEND and Reasonable Adjustments

14.1 Medical Information: Parents must tell the setting about any medical condition, allergy, medication, skin condition, heat sensitivity, cold sensitivity, sun sensitivity or other health concern that may be affected by weather.

14.2 Individual Plans: Where a child has a medical need affected by weather, sun exposure, heat, cold, sunscreen, hydration, medication storage or outdoor access, the setting may require an individual healthcare plan, allergy plan, SEND plan, reasonable-adjustment plan or risk assessment.

14.3 Medication Storage: Medication will be stored in line with relevant setting procedures, manufacturer guidance and the child's individual plan. Staff will consider whether heat or cold could affect medication storage.

14.4 Sunscreen Allergy or Skin Sensitivity: Where a child cannot use standard sunscreen arrangements or requires a specific product, parents must provide suitable information and named sunscreen. An allergy, medical or reasonable-adjustment plan may be required.

14.5 Sensory Needs: Some children may find certain clothing, hats, coats, gloves, sunscreen or footwear difficult because of sensory needs. Parents must discuss this with the setting in advance so that safe and workable arrangements can be considered.

14.6 Limits of Adjustment: Adjustments must still allow the setting to keep the child and others safe. Where a clothing item, lack of clothing, lack of sun protection or refusal of weather protection creates an unmanageable safety risk, the setting may restrict activities, require alternative arrangements, delay handover, refuse entry or require collection.

14.7 Parent Partnership: Parents are expected to work with staff to find practical, safe and workable solutions. A child's preference or refusal to wear suitable clothing does not automatically remove the need for weather protection.

15. Cultural, Religious and Personal Clothing

15.1 Respectful Approach: The setting will consider cultural, religious and personal clothing respectfully and on a case-by-case basis.

15.2 Safety Priority: Where clothing creates a weather, heat, cold, snagging, strangulation, movement, toileting, hygiene or safeguarding risk, the setting may ask for safer alternatives or adaptations.

15.3 Heat and Layering: In hot weather, parents should work with the setting to ensure cultural or religious clothing remains safe, breathable, practical and suitable for the child's age, health and activity level.

15.4 Head Coverings: Head coverings must be safe, secure and suitable for preschool activities. They must not create strangulation, snagging, overheating, restricted vision or movement risks.

16. Weather Warnings and Setting Closure

16.1 Weather Alerts: The setting may consider Met Office weather warnings, UKHSA heat-health alerts, local authority advice, emergency planning guidance, road conditions, staff travel safety, site safety, utility failure and the condition of the premises.

16.2 Closure or Reduced Service: Innsworth Preschool will always try to remain open where it is safe and reasonable to do so. However, management may close in advance, close during the day, reduce operating hours, close or restrict a room or activity, restrict attendance, or require early collection where it reasonably believes that extreme weather, high temperatures, humidity, inadequate ventilation or cooling, premises conditions, utility failure, staffing levels, ratios, child wellbeing, staff wellbeing (including risks to pregnant or otherwise vulnerable staff), or another safety concern means the setting cannot operate safely or appropriately.

16.3 Examples of Closure Triggers: Closure or reduced service may be considered where:

- Indoor temperatures become unsafe or unmanageable
- Heating fails in cold weather
- Cooling or ventilation is insufficient in extreme heat
- Water supply is unavailable
- Power failure affects safety
- Paths, entrances or outdoor areas are unsafe
- Snow, ice or flooding affects safe access
- High winds create risk from trees, fences, equipment or structures
- Storms, lightning or severe weather make outdoor or travel conditions unsafe
- Staffing ratios cannot be maintained because of weather disruption
- Emergency services, local authority or public health advice indicates increased risk

16.4 Management Decision: The decision will be made by the Manager or most senior authorised person using professional judgement, dynamic risk assessment, EYFS safeguarding and welfare duties, health and safety responsibilities, staffing and premises information, and the needs of the children and staff on site.

16.5 Communication and Collection: Where possible, parents will be informed of significant changes by Tapestry, email, text, phone or another usual communication channel. If a child is struggling with heat, becomes unwell, or management decides that continued attendance is no longer safe or appropriate, parents/carers will be contacted and must arrange prompt collection by themselves or an authorised adult. This is a safeguarding and welfare instruction and is not optional.

16.6 Fees and Funded Entitlements: Where the setting closes, reduces hours, restricts attendance, or is unable to provide booked care due to emergency, safety, staffing, weather, premises, public health, safeguarding, or operational reasons, any fee, charge, credit, refund, or adjustment will be considered in line with the Parent-Provider Agreement, the Fees, Funding and Charges Policy, current local authority funding rules, consumer law, the reason for the closure, costs already incurred, services already provided or reserved, and the circumstances of the case.

The setting may retain or charge reasonable sums where this is lawful, fair, clearly explained, and linked to costs, losses, booked provision, services already arranged,

or the circumstances of the disruption. The setting will not rely on a blanket no-refund position where this would be unfair or inconsistent with statutory rights.

16.7 Funded Sessions: Funded entitlement sessions affected by closure or reduced delivery will be managed in line with the current Gloucestershire Early Years Provider Agreement, parental declaration, local authority funding rules, and any applicable guidance. The setting will follow the required funding process and will not claim or charge in a way that breaches those requirements.

17. Non-Compliance and Escalation

17.1 Immediate Response: If a child arrives unsuitable for the weather, staff may:

- Ask the parent to correct the issue before handover
- Ask the parent to take the child home and return once appropriately dressed
- Ask the parent to provide missing items promptly
- Refuse entry until the issue is resolved
- Restrict the child from certain activities
- Contact the parent for collection
- Record the concern and action taken

17.2 Repeated Non-Compliance: Repeated failure to follow weather, clothing or safety requirements may be treated as a parent partnership concern and may lead to formal review under the setting's terms and procedures.

17.3 Possible Escalation: Depending on the seriousness, frequency and impact of the concern, escalation may include:

- Verbal reminder
- Written reminder
- Formal warning
- Parent meeting
- Review of the child's place
- Restricted attendance
- Suspension where safety is affected

- Termination of the place in serious or repeated cases, in line with the setting's parent terms and admissions procedures

17.4 Serious Safety Breach: A serious breach may result in immediate refusal of entry, suspension or collection requirement where the child's welfare or safety cannot be protected.

17.5 Examples of Serious or Repeated Breaches: These may include, but are not limited to:

- Repeatedly sending a child in onesies or sleepwear
- Repeatedly sending a child overdressed in hot weather
- Repeatedly sending a child underdressed in cold weather
- Failing to apply sunscreen despite reminders
- Failing to provide a sun hat despite reminders
- Failing to provide a coat or warm clothing in cold weather
- Refusing to collect a child who is unwell or not coping
- Challenging staff aggressively at handover
- Ignoring reasonable safety instructions
- Sending a child in clothing that repeatedly prevents safe toileting or personal care

17.6 Parent Conduct: Concerns must be raised calmly and respectfully.

Aggressive, abusive or unreasonable conduct may be managed under the setting's parent conduct procedures and parent terms.

18. Documentation and Audit Trail

18.1 Records: The setting may record:

- Weather-related risk assessments
- Significant weather decisions
- Refusal of entry or delayed handover
- Parent contact
- Requests for collection
- Child illness or distress
- Accidents or first aid

- Repeated non-compliance
- Parent refusal to follow instructions
- Reasonable adjustments agreed
- Closure or reduced-service decisions

18.2 Decision Rationale: Records should explain the reason for the decision and link it to health, safety, welfare, dignity, hygiene, safeguarding or operational need.

18.3 Parent Communication: Where a parent is informed of a weather-related concern, staff may record what was said, what action was requested, the parent's response and whether the matter was resolved.

18.4 Pattern Monitoring: Management may review repeated concerns to identify patterns, including families repeatedly sending children unsuitable for the weather or children repeatedly struggling with specific weather conditions.

19. Communication with Parents

19.1 Seasonal Reminders: The setting may send seasonal reminders about hot weather, cold weather, wet weather, sunscreen, hats, coats, spare clothes, footwear and expected standards.

19.2 Urgent Weather Messages: Where weather conditions change quickly or alerts are issued, the setting may send urgent messages requiring parents to take specific action.

19.3 Policy Reference: Parent communications may refer to this policy and other relevant setting policies or procedures to explain the setting's expectations and decisions.

19.4 Not Every Scenario Listed: This policy cannot list every possible weather situation. The setting will use professional judgement and reasonable controls based on the circumstances at the time.

20. Monitoring and Review

20.1 Review: This policy will be reviewed annually, after significant weather events, following relevant incidents, or where guidance, law, setting practice or operational arrangements change.

20.2 Learning Loop: Learning from incidents, near misses, parent communication, staff feedback and seasonal issues will be used to improve procedures.

20.3 Management Oversight: The Manager will ensure that the policy remains practical, proportionate, current and consistent with the setting's wider policies, procedures and parent terms.