Little Disciples Childcare

Managing Extreme Weather Policy and Procedures

"Caring for children, supporting parents and sparking imaginations. Where quality, affordability, and excitement meet!"

Document Title:	Managing Extreme Weather Policy and Procedures
Owner:	Little Disciples Childcare
Approval Date:	June 2026
Next Review Date:	May 2027
Distribution List:	Committee, Management Team, Staff & Parents
Responsible Individual Signature:	
Committee & Trustee approval:	

Version	Date	Changes Made	Author	Approved By	Next Review Date
1.0	June 2025	Initial Release for Provider changes	S. Gocher	A. Stephens	Annually - May 2026
1.1	May 2026	Policy Review – No Changes	S. Gocher	Committee & Trustees	Annually - May 2027

Policy Statement

At Little Disciples Childcare, we are committed to providing a seamless and cohesive approach to childcare across all our services. This policy and procedure apply equally to both our Nursery Plus provision and our Breakfast, Afterschool, and Holiday Club services. This integrated framework ensures consistent standards of care, safety, and quality across all aspects of our provision, fostering a supportive and nurturing environment for every child in our care.

At Little Disciples Childcare, we have an adverse weather policy in place to ensure our setting is prepared for all weather conditions that might affect the running of the setting such as floods, snow and heat waves.

If any of these impact on the ability of the setting to open or operate, we will contact parents via phone, text and email.

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 policy to enable all children and staff to be safe and continuity of care to be planned for.

Snow or other severe weather
If high snowfall, or another severe weather condition such as dense fog, is threatened during the day then the manager will work alongside the school to decide whether to close the setting. This decision will consider the safety of the children, their parents and the staff team. In the event of a planned closure during the setting day, we will contact all parents to arrange for 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 options have been explored, we will contact CIW to inform them of this issue, recording all details in our incident file. If we feel the safety, health or welfare of the children is compromised then the manager will work with the school to discuss whether the setting can be opened or whether the setting should close.

Heat wave
We are committed to ensuring that all children are fully protected from the dangers of too much sun/UV rays. Severe sunburn in childhood can lead to the development of malignant melanoma (the most dangerous type of skin cancer) in later life.

Staff will make day-to-day decisions about the length of time spent outside depending on the strength of the sun and find the right balance to protect children from sunburn by following the NHS guidance. The benefits are discussed with parents and their wishes followed with regard to clothing, hats and sun cream.

We follow guidance from the weather and UV level reports and use the following procedures to keep children safe and healthy in the sun:

- Children must have a clearly labelled sun hat which will be always worn whilst outside in sunny weather. This hat will preferably be of legionnaires design to provide additional protection i.e. with an extended back and side to shield children's neck and ears from the sun.
- Children must have their own labelled high factor sun cream with prior written consent for children to apply themselves with supervision from staff. This enables children to have sun cream suitable for their own individual needs. Staff must be aware of the expiry date and discard sunscreen after this date. Sun cream containing nut-based ingredients will not be allowed in the setting.
- Parents are requested to supply light-weight cotton clothing for their children suitable for the sun, with long sleeves and long legs.
- Children's safety and welfare in hot weather is the setting'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 levels); children may not be allowed in direct sunlight or additional shade will be provided between 11.00am – 3.00pm on hot days from March to October, following NHS sun safety advice.
- Shaded areas are provided to ensure children can still go out in hot weather, cool down or escape the sun should they wish or need to
- Parents are reminded and encouraged to apply suncream on their child before attending school and staff will encourage children to reapply at lunchtime or afterschool club if necessary.
- Children are encouraged to drink cooled water more frequently throughout sunny or warm days 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.
- Staff will also work with the parents to decide and agree on suitable 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. darker skin tones which have more melanin.