

General Welfare Requirement: Safeguarding and Promoting Children's Welfare

The provider must take necessary steps to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Policy statement

11.1 Setting Closure Policy Including Severe Weather Policy

This setting believes that the health and safety of children is of paramount importance. We make our setting a safe and healthy place for children, parents, staff and volunteers by assessing and minimising the hazards and risks to enable the children to thrive in a healthy and safe environment.

EYFS key themes and commitments

A Unique Child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.3 Keeping safe		3.3 The learning environment. 3.4 The wider context	

In the event of exceptional circumstances St. John's Playgroup will not open if this results in a breach of EYFS welfare requirements and, or Ofsted registration. In order to operate we must meet the following criteria:

- The EYFS Welfare requirements.
- Our insurance policy.
- The number of appropriately qualified staff available.
- Appropriate child staff ratios.
- The physical environment of our setting (risk assessment).
- Our ability to safeguard the children in our care in the event of a Critical Incident.

An exceptional circumstance is defined as something which has happened beyond our normal level of control such as:

- Lack or failure of heating.
- Accidental damage or vandalism to the setting making it unfit for purpose.
- Failure in supply of services (water, sewerage, electricity).
- Ratios due to illness or understaffing.
- Extreme weather conditions such as snow, flood or storm
- Unexpected closure before a session

On discovering that a scheduled session is not able to run, the following procedure will start:

- The first member of staff on site will inform the Manager or Chairperson.
- If needed the emergency services will also be contacted.
- The manager or deputy will Contact parents immediately to inform of Session closure and the reason why will be given.
- Unexpected closure poster will be displayed on main door.
- The manager or deputy will inform OFSTED and if necessary the insurance company.

Closure during a session

- If necessary children will be evacuated to the playground.
- if this is deemed unsafe they will be taken to St John's Church of England Primary School, Sandbach Heath, Heath Road, Sandbach Cheshire CW11 2LE. School telephone 01270 762859
- parents will be contacted to collect their children.

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY

In the event of severe weather conditions, it is important that you are familiar with the following procedures In certain bad conditions, e.g. heavy snowfall or icy roads or a red warning heatwave it may be necessary to close the playgroup for the rest of the day. In the event of severe weather conditions the Manager and either the Chair of the committee or a parent representative will take into consideration local weather conditions and decide whether it is safe for the playgroup to remain open. Parents will be contacted by telephone and requested to collect their child/children as soon as possible. If we are unable to contact you as a parent then the next emergency contact from your registration form will be contacted. If heavy snow falls overnight or the roads become dangerous due to ice making it impossible for staff to travel to the setting we may remain closed on the following day.

If this is the case, you will be contacted at home via telephone by the manager on the morning of the closure between the hours of 7.30 and 8.30am wherever possible. We will keep you informed by telephone about when setting will reopen. Should the setting close for any of the above reasons and you have not been contacted (e.g. if you were not at home or have not picked up your mobile messages), please telephone to ensure that the setting has re-opened before returning on the following day. It is our policy to open for as long possible. We would only close St. John's Playgroup if it was absolutely necessary. Our team is required to telephone the Manager or Deputy Manager as soon as they know that they will not be able to make it into work. If this leads to staff to child ratio's not being met it would not be acceptable to remain open as set out in Ofsted's staff ratio criteria

This policy was adopted at a meeting of Sandbach Heath (St. John's)
Playgroup

Held on _____ (date)

Date to be reviewed _____ (date)

Signed on behalf of the management
committee

Name of signatory

Role of signatory (e.g. chair/owner)