



Ganneys Meadow Nursery School and Family Hub.



Severe Weather and Emergency Closures Policy

Updated: May 2026

Severe Weather and Emergency Closures Policy

Adopted by the Governing Body

School: Ganneys Meadow School and Family Hub

Date: June 2026

1. Statement of Intent	2
2. Scope of Policy	2
3. Procedures by Weather Type	2
A. Extreme Heat & Sun Safety	2
B. High Winds and Storms	3
C. Flooding	3
4. Decision-making for Closure	3
5. Communication Plan	3

Severe Weather and Emergency Closures Policy

1. Statement of Intent

Ganneys Meadow School and Family Hub aims to remain open in all but the most severe weather conditions. However, the safety of children and staff is paramount. This policy outlines our response to various weather emergencies to ensure consistent decision-making and clear communication with parents.

2. Scope of Policy

This policy addresses:

- **Extreme Heat** (Heat-health alerts)
- **Heavy Rain and Flooding**
- **High Winds and Storms**
- **Severe Snow/Ice** (Expanding on the [Gritting Policy](#))

3. Procedures by Weather Type

A. Extreme Heat & Sun Safety

In the event of a Level 3 or 4 UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) heat-health alert:

- **Outdoor Play:** Restricted to before 11:00 AM and after 3:00 PM.
- **Hydration:** Water stations will be moved into all play areas; staff will monitor intake.
- **Environment:** Blinds will be closed; fans or cooling systems will be used to keep internal temperatures below 26°C where possible.
- **Clothing:** Parents are requested to provide sun hats and pre-apply high-factor (SPF 30+) sunscreen.
- **Sunscreen:** Sunscreen is available from Carol Kershaw to reapply when necessary if parental approvals are given.

B. High Winds and Storms

- **Garden Safety:** Outdoor play is suspended if wind speeds or gusts pose a risk of falling branches or flying debris. Suspension will be decided by The Site Team/Site Manager.
- **Site Check:** The Site Team/Site Manager will inspect the perimeter for loose tiles, fences, or trees before children are allowed outside.

C. Flooding

- **In-Building:** If the premises are at risk of being flooded, the building will close immediately.
- **Access:** If the building is safe but surrounding roads are impassable, a dynamic risk assessment will determine if the setting can remain open.

4. Decision-making for Closure

The decision to close the nursery or end the session early rests with the **Head Teacher/SLT**. Factors considered include:

1. **Staffing Ratios:** Can enough staff safely travel to the nursery to maintain legal EYFS ratios?
2. **Safety of the Site:** Is the building heated, hydrated, and structurally sound?
3. **Local Authority Advice:** Are local schools and services being advised to close?

5. Communication Plan

In the event of a late opening or closure:

- **Notification:** Parents will be notified via Tapestry/Email before 7:30 AM.
- **Updates:** Further updates will be posted on Tapestry/Email or Social Media/Website.
- **Fees:** Our policy on fees during emergency closures is outlined in the Parent Contract.