

Poor Weather Conditions Policy and Procedure

The 'Poor Weather Conditions' are snow, rain, wind, thunder storms ,lightning storms and heat.

At Bus Stop Forest School Training we believe that our students should experience learning in their environment no matter what the weather, however we understand that it is our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our students and it is our responsibility to rearrange a Forest School training day if the weather is unsafe and or end a Forest School training day if the weather becomes unsafe for training to continue.

The Forest School Trainers – Kate Rice and Kelly Haines are responsible for making the decision to postpone, stop or continue training.

It is the responsibility of the Bus Stop Trainers to ensure local weather information is up to date before preparing for training on the woodland site and or preparing for training on the forest school site, this is through viewing the Met Office website/BBC weather App.

The table below details the procedure and risk assessment undertaken by the Forest School Trainers in the event of poor weather conditions:

Weather Condition	Reason to Continue	Reason to Cancel
Snow	Snow has settled and children have arrived prepared for session in snow.	Snow still falling, freezing and slippery conditions. Parents to be called if snow fall increases.
Rain	Light rain, forecast is good.	Heavy rain, forecast to continue, possible flooding.
Wind	Light Wind	High wind. Danger of falling branches and trees. Refer to the Beaufort wind force scale 1-12.
Thunder Storm and Lightening	Low rumbles of thunder heard in the distance. Clear skies.	Rumbles of thunder grow louder. Bolts of lightning visible in the distance.
Heat	Medium heat. Children wearing sun protection. Keep to shaded areas.	Too hot. Risk of sun stroke and heat exhaustion.

On joining Bus Stop Forest School Training, students are informed of the Forest School approach and reminded to ensure that they arrive dressed appropriately for Forest School activities. In the event that a student is dressed inappropriately for the weather condition we can provide the following all-weather clothing and footwear:

- Waterproof trousers,
- Gloves,
- Warm hats,
- Socks,
- Welly socks,

- Warm coats,
- Rain coats,
- Sun hats,
- Long sleeved t-shirts,
- Long trousers,
- Wellington Boots,
- Snow boots.

This list should not be viewed as exhausted.

Before going training, the Trainers ensure that they and students are wearing appropriate footwear and clothing for the weather conditions.

In the event that Forest School training may need to be postponed/rearranged with the students due to adverse weather conditions during or before a training day, the Bus Stop Trainers will telephone or email students, explaining the situation. Please read Emergency Closure and Contingency Plan Policy and Procedure for details.

Useful Resources

- www.bbc.co.uk – search Weather
- www.metoffice.gov.uk – search Bookham/Leatherhead/Dorking weather
- Beaufort Wind Force Scale – www.metoffice.gov.uk

This policy was reviewed in May 2025, to be reviewed in September 2025

Signed by Lead FS Trainer _____ FS Trainer _____