



Emergency Closure Policy

STATEMENT OF INTENT.

Totterdown Preschool, will endeavour to be open from 8:15am to 2.15pm Monday to Friday during term time without disruption. A member of staff is on site from 7.30am. Where disruption is unavoidable, all involved at Totterdown Preschool will be kept informed and Totterdown will reopen at the earliest opportunity.

Aim

In the unlikely event that Totterdown has to close at times other than scheduled in the normal opening hours and dates, the policy will be applied to ensure that all involved at Totterdown have a clear understanding of the procedures which will take place.

Methods

An emergency / short notice closure will be implemented in the following circumstances:

When the building is unusable through accidental or malicious damage

Flooding

Bad weather – see Bad Weather Policy

The breakdown of the heating system.

When the building is unusable due to required maintenance work. Where possible we will endeavour to negotiate scheduled work to be carried out during times of closure.

When an outbreak of illness within Totterdown community requires closure in line with Health Protection Agency (HPA), Public Health England (PHE) and Ofsted guidelines.

When an outbreak of illness occurs within the wider community that requires closure in line with government guidelines.

When illness levels within the staff body mean it is impossible to maintain the correct ratios of suitable adults to children.

When an emergency occurs during the Preschool session which requires Totterdown to close early.

In the event of any of the above incidents occurring which requires Totterdown not to open on a given session, the Manager and Deputy will make contact with the families of the preschool affected for that session in advance of the day where practical.

Where this is not practical, the Manager or Deputy will be asked to remain at the building until such time as it can be determined that all the affected families have been made aware of the situation.

The Manager/Owner is responsible for informing the relevant authorities of the unexpected closure depending on the circumstances of the closure.

Parents will be informed about how they can find out when Totterdown will reopen and other pertinent information according to the circumstances of the closure. This may include asking them to nominate a preferred contact number/email address, social media sites or holding a special meeting to keep parents informed.

Totterdown Preschool operates a private Facebook page that parents are asked to sign up to in order that information can be posted.

Emergency closure after a session has started

In the event of an emergency closure after the session has started, parents and carers will be informed by telephone that they are required to collect their child as soon as possible.

If the closure is due to sickness, the children and all staff who are unaffected will remain on the premises until all children can be collected.

If the closure is due to an emergency which requires the building to be evacuated, the children will be safely evacuated according to the current Fire Drill procedures. Contact information for all the children will be taken out of the building alongside the daily register.

Once the building is evacuated, the Manager will ensure the relevant authorities/emergency services are called.

The children will then be taken to a place of safety (the local public house at the end of Harpers Road) until such time as they can all be collected by parents and carers. The Manager will contact the parents and carers of the children present. All staff will remain with the children during this time.

Should any of the above occur, fee's will still have to be paid and regrettably will not be refunded as staff are either employed on a permanent contract or a termly basis.

Agreed by Claire Childs and Shamira Lumsden

Reviewed and revised on August 2021

STAFF ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I have read this policy and will adhere to it in future practice: