

35: Snow & Ice

Our club is committed to providing uninterrupted care throughout the year and has the highest regard for the safety of the children in our care. This is a matter of both legal and moral importance; therefore we aim to provide this service in all weather conditions including periods when there may be snow and ice. All staff will be familiarised with the provisions contained within this policy as part of their induction and be expected to act in accordance with them at all times.

The safety of staff and children is the priority of the club as snow and ice presents health and safety risks. Due to the high risk for slips, trips and falls the club advises staff and children to:

- Walk, do not run
- Wear footwear with a non slip sole, for example, wellington boots
- Try where possible to leave hands free to aid balance and or to minimize the effects of a fall

During the months of November to April the manager will:

- Liaise with the school regarding stock levels of salt and ensure that the salt stock levels are adequate for the weather conditions

In the event of snow and/or freezing conditions:

- The club will **not** normally close
- All staff should attempt to get to work if it is possible and safe to do so
- The caretaker will ensure that paths, entrances to buildings, steps and exits will be cleared and/or salted daily before the children arrive and depart.

Despite the high level of safety measures in place, in exceptional severe weather conditions (heavy snow or freezing conditions that result in a lack of safe travel), the club will contact all parents with information regarding club closure.

Parents will be kept informed as to when the club reopens, using our website and email.

If the club is forced to close because of an emergency, fees will not be refunded for closures of up to a week (5 school days). After this period, the committee will meet to review the situation and assess how long the closure might continue. This does not imply that fees will be refunded for closures that are longer than a week.