



Weather Policy

Aim

To ensure children can safely enjoy outdoor learning in a range of weather conditions while minimising risk.

Approach

Boots and Buds is a dedicated outdoor learning experience. Sessions will run in standard British weather, including light-to-moderate rain, low temperatures, and warm sunshine. Parents must ensure children arrive with the mandatory weather-appropriate gear specified in 'what to bring' section of our booking platform.

Our gazebo and designated garden room are strictly utilised for temporary physical respite, hydration breaks, gear changes, or short-term shelter during passing weather fronts. They do not constitute an indoor learning classroom.

Procedure

Sessions will go ahead in:

- ⌘ Light to moderate rain
- ⌘ Cold weather (with appropriate clothing)
- ⌘ Warm weather (with sun protection)

Sessions may be modified or cancelled in:

- ⌘ High winds
- ⌘ Thunderstorms
- ⌘ Extreme heat
- ⌘ Snow/ice where ground is unsafe

Safety Measures

- ⌘ Daily weather checks before sessions
- ⌘ Ongoing dynamic risk assessment
- ⌘ Use of sheltered areas where possible
- ⌘ Activities adapted to conditions

Parent Responsibilities

Parents must ensure children bring:

- ⌘ Waterproofs
- ⌘ Appropriate footwear

- ☞ Warm layers / sun protection

Cancellation

- ☞ Parents will be informed as early as possible
- ☞ Alternative sessions or credits may be offered

Extreme Weather Cancellation Triggers

To guarantee child safety, sessions will be proactively cancelled or cut short if the Met Office issues any of the following warnings or weather data for our exact location:

- **Wind:** Sustained winds exceeding 30mph or wind gusts forecast at 35mph and above (rendering open spaces, and temporary gazebo structures unsafe).
- **Temperature:** Ambient temperatures forecast below -2°C or heatwave warnings exceeding 34°C.
- **Atmospheric Hazards:** Any active Met Office Amber or Red weather warnings for lightning storms, torrential flooding, heavy snow, or high winds.

Notification Protocols

- **Pre-Session Cancellations:** We monitor the Met Office forecast constantly. If a cancellation trigger is forecast, we will issue a formal closure notification via SMS text message and email to all registered parents **no later than 12 hours prior** to the scheduled session start time (21:30 PM the previous evening for an 10:30 AM start).
- **Mid-Session Emergency Evacuations:** If un-forecast extreme weather (such as a sudden lightning strike or a structural gazebo failure due to freak wind) occurs during a session, children will be moved immediately into the Respite Garden Room. We will issue an **Emergency Immediate Pickup SMS Alert via our booking platform**. Parents or designated emergency contacts must arrive to collect their child within **45 minutes** of the time the text alert is timestamped.

Financial and Refund Terms

Because our provision is entirely weather-dependent, operational overheads, staffing costs, and business insurance remain fixed regardless of closure.

- If a session is cancelled by us **prior to starting** due to a Met Office safety trigger, parents will receive a 50% credit voucher applicable to future bookings.
- If a session is terminated **mid-way through the day** due to sudden unsafe weather changes, no partial refunds or credits will be issued.