



Severe Weather Policy

Rationale

Whilst we will always aim to work in all weather conditions, we recognise that there are limitations to the safety of the environment due to the weather conditions.

Aim

We aim to clearly identify weather unsuitable for outdoor activity with children.

In order to meet this aim we will;

Prior to any session taking place and during the session the Forest School leader will assess the weather conditions and take appropriate action to minimise risk.

Weather forecast information especially bad weather alerts will be checked for before each and every session. The information given in them along with local knowledge of the woodland and the group will be combined by the forest school leader in making a decision about the session proceeding or not. In the Service Level Agreements with organisations, time scales for communication about the cancellation of sessions is clearly given.

High wind

If there is a high wind which sways the tops of the trees more than a meter in either direction, there is a risk of falling dead wood from the trees;

The session will be cancelled and re convened at another time if practical and possible;

If this weather condition develops during the session all the participants will leave the woodland area as soon as possible by the identified primary or secondary route.

Heavy Rain

If there is very heavy rain and the site is near water (river, canal lake, pond) and there is danger of flooding;

The session will be cancelled if no other area of woodland is available and suitable for use;

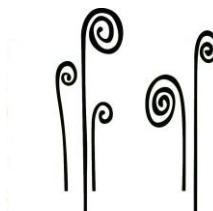
Appropriate shelter and adaptation of the session will be made to allow all participants to have a positive experience;

If very heavy rain develops during session all the participants will leave the woodland area as soon as possible by the identified primary or secondary route.

Cold

All information about weather suitable clothing will be made available to participants via our web site and in detail through any service level agreement.

Tinderwood Trust will only carry spare warm clothing for emergency situations and not to clothe all participants.



If a significant number of participants begin to show signs of stress in the cold the session will be ended to ensure that we are always taking care of our users and working hard to create positive outcomes through their participation with us rather than endurance!

All participants and staff must be properly wrapped up against the weather. If this cannot happen then the session will be cancelled.

Heat

Unlikely but you never know! All participants must be properly protected from the elements in this case sunscreen, and extra drinking water will be provided for all taking part.

Policy adopted: January 2012

Reviewed: January 2013; August 2016; **January 2018; January 2019**

