



Sample Weather Policy

We always aim to be outside as much as possible. Staff will be checking the weather forecast prior to the session and will make a decision accordingly.

We will aim to have access to a sheltered space when possible where children can be warm and dry. Please see clothing policy.

In the case of torrential rain which is set to last a while, the session may be cancelled by the forest school facilitator at the earliest opportunity.

We follow the Beaufort Scale to decide whether the session is safe to go ahead in windy conditions. We cancel all sessions if the wind is above Force 7 (32 – 35 miles an hour).

However in most cases the session will not go ahead if Force 6 or above. The final decision is made by the facilitator who knows their site specifics and factors e.g age of trees, if trees are in leaf, if there are any overhanging branches and type of tree (Horse Chestnut and Beech) .

Force	What it looks like	What it's called	Wind speed
0	Smoke rises straight up	Calm	0 mph
1	Smoke drifts, indicating wind direction	Light air	1-3 mph
2	Leaves rustle; weathervanes move	Light breeze	4-7 mph
3	Leaves and twigs move	Gentle breeze	8-12 mph
4	Branches move; flags flap	Moderate breeze	13-18 mph
5	Small trees sway; whitecaps on water	Fresh breeze	19-24 mph
6	Large branches move; flags beat	Strong breeze	25-31 mph
7	Whole trees move; flags extend	Near gale	32-38 mph
8	Twigs break; walking is hard	Fresh gale	39-46 mph
9	Signs blow down; slate blows off roof	Strong gale	47-54 mph
10	Trees uproot	Whole gale	55-63 mph
11	Much general damage	Storm	64-72 mph
12	Widespread destruction	Hurricane	72+ mph

Thunder and Lightning

If possible walk to nearest vehicles or modern buildings. There are four actions that can reduce your lightning risk:

- There is rarely a freak or surprise storm, so plan well and leave time to get to shelter. If the sound travels a mile every 5 seconds. If the length between the lightning flash and the sound of thunder is 30 seconds in length or less (ie. less than 6 miles away) you should seek shelter immediately.
- If you are exposed to the elements with nowhere to shelter try to make yourself as small as possible by crouching down with your feet together, hands on knees and head tucked in. This technique keeps as much of you off the ground as possible as lightning will not necessarily target the highest object in an area, but the object providing a path with the least resistant to ground. if you have foam pad to stand on or pack to sit on do

it. Aim is to reduce your overall footprint to the ground. Try to do this in an area that provides the best protection for you. Lying flat increases the risk of ground current.

- Move away from wide open spaces or exposed hilltops. Wide open ground offers high exposure to lightening.
- Do NOT stand under tall or isolated trees. It has been estimated that 25% of people struck by lightning were so as a result of taking shelter under these types of trees. Trees contain about 20% moisture content compared with humans who have a 65% moisture content. As lightning always takes the path of least resistance, you may become that path for any lightning jumps or radial energy from a strike.

In some cases the school will be asked to make provision for an indoor space where nature-based activities may be carried out recurring unmanageable weather.

If a session needs to be cancelled every attempt will be made to reschedule this session.

In the case of extreme heat, children will be encouraged to drink plenty of water, wear suitable clothing, seek shelter from the sun when necessary and staff will monitor the situation.