

Ann Bernadt and Nell Gwynn Federated Nursery Schools



Ann Bernadt Nursery School
29 Chandler Way
London SE15 6DT
Tel No. 020 7703 1905
office@annbernadt.southwark.sch.uk

*Working in Partnership With
SEEDS
Southwark Early Years Education Development in Schools*

Nell Gwynn Nursery School
Meeting House Lane
London SE15 2TT
Tel No. 020 7252 8265
office@nellgwynn.southwark.sch.uk

Lynne Cooper, Executive Head Teacher

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Severe Weather Policy and Procedures

This document is to make Ann Bernadt and Nell Gwynn Federated Nursery Schools as safe as possible when severe weather conditions prevail.

Practice

In slippery conditions when there is ice or snow on the ground, all reasonable steps will be taken to ensure safe access and egress for children, parents, staff, visitors and other users of the school.

In extreme conditions, when the school cannot be brought into a safe condition, the Executive Head will may make a decision to close the school. Using the texting service, a text will be sent out to all parents to inform them that the school is closed for the day and an update will follow.

Although we recognise that snow can be fun for children, the throwing of snowballs will not be allowed. Children may sustain injury to themselves and others.

A pathway will be cleared and gritted from the main gate to the entrance. We will maintain adequate stocks of grit/salt and ensure that a gritting machine and suitable snow-shifting tools are available.

- **Action to be taken by schools in the event of severe weather warnings**

The Local Authority website will be updated as often as appropriate with severe weather warnings. The website also includes guidance for parents and others who may be concerned about school closures. A text will be sent to all parents/carers in the event of a school closure.

- **Gritting**

While main road are gritted, the routes to school are not necessarily covered. To ascertain whether our school is on a gritted route, please telephone 0207 525 5000.

The grit for the premises will be ordered before the danger of freezing is upon us, that pedestrian routes on the school property are gritted as necessary and that play areas are safe.

- **Safety around school**

Safety of pupils and staff at school is paramount. If snow is making porches or corridors abnormally wet, the floor is to be mopped regularly. The storage of boots, umbrellas etc. should not block corridors or fire exits, or pose a trip hazard.

- **School closures**

A decision to close the school will be taken by the Executive Head in consideration of the individual circumstances at our own school. This will include not only the severity of the local weather, but roads and pathways which may make access particularly difficult, the ability of staff to get to school, and the availability of bus services.

The Chair of Governors will be consulted and advised on the situation of school closure.

- **Advising school closures / School Website**

In the event of a school closure, a message will be uploaded on the first page of the school website.

Ann Bernadt www.annbernadtnursery.co.uk

Nell Gywnn www.nellgywnn.southwark.sch.uk

The Local Authority will be advised of the decision to close the school as soon as it is made (Tel: 0207 525 3846).

- **Text Service**

In the event of a school closure, all nominated mobile phone numbers of parents/carers will be sent a text detailing the closure.

- **Holiday procedure**

At any time when the school is closed during the winter, the heating will be left on with the thermostat reduced to a very low temperature, to avoid the danger of pipes freezing and subsequent bursts.

Websites:

www.southwark.gov.uk

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/forecast>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cold-weather-plan-for-end>

Appendix 1

The Cold Weather Plan for England (Public Health England, 2016) describes the actions to be taken by all health and social care agencies to prepare for and respond to winter so as to protect the vulnerable in the event that cold temperatures and/or widespread ice and heavy snow occur.

This document supports the London Borough of Southwark in their responsibilities around cold weather alerts and actions, and works alongside the Clinical Commissioning Group CCG's alert systems. It clarifies arrangements around:

- The alert cascade for cold weather alerts, and
- Actions to be taken at each level

Further information on responsibilities, the effect of cold on health and detailed actions by level of cold weather alert are available in the Cold Weather Plan for England 2016:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/cold-weather-plan-for-england>

Cold weather alert levels:

Level 0	Long term Planning <i>All year</i>
Level 1	Winter preparedness and action programme <i>1 November – 31 March</i>
Level 2	Severe winter weather is forecast – Alert and readiness <i>Mean temperature of 2°C and/or widespread ice and heavy snow are predicted within 48 hours, with 60% confidence</i>
Level 3	Response to severe winter weather – Severe weather action <i>Severe winter weather is now occurring: mean temperature of 2°C or less and/or widespread ice and heavy snow</i>
Level 4	Major incident – Emergency response <i>Central government will declare a level 4 alert in the event of severe or prolonged cold weather affecting sectors other than health</i>