**41: Snow and Ice**

Willows are committed to providing uninterrupted care throughout the year and we have 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 will be expected to act in accordance with them at all times.

We will follow Clavering Primary School’s example in closing when conditions worsen.

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

* Walk, do not run
* Wear footwear with a non-slip sole, for example, wellies.
* Try where possible to leave hands free to aid balance and/or to minimise the effects of a fall.
* Children will be encouraged to use the hand rail to access the building

In the event of snow and/or freezing temperatures:

* The settings will not normally close
* All staff should attempt to get to work if it is possible and safe to do so
* 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 (such as heavy snow or freezing conditions that result in a lack of safe travel Willows will contact parents/carers with information regarding setting closures.

In times of adverse weather conditions, Willows will use facebook to inform parents/carers of any site closures or extra precautions that need to be taken. As such, parents/carers should ensure they make regular checks of the websites during these times.

Parents will be kept informed as to when any settings reopen.