



Clann Aire

Inclement Weather Policy for Parents

Policy Statement:

Clann Aire is committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of children, parents and employees attending our service at all times.

This policy addresses the situation where Clann Aire will close due to weather related circumstances outside of our control. At all times safety considerations will be paramount.

Principle:

This policy is underwritten by the Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 and Tusla's Quality and Regulatory Framework.

Rationale:

It is important to set out any custom and practice within the setting about what happens in the event of extreme weather conditions or unforeseen closures.

Measures to be taken to ensure the safety and welfare of children, Staff and Parents:

- We have a Risk Assessment Form in place outlining all the considerations we will take to ensure that all Children, Parents and employees' safety is prioritised.
- We will adhere to government advice and any weather warnings.
- We will undertake a detailed risk assessment before opening our service to identify whether there are any hazards for children, Parents and employees in relation to travel, building, compliance with Regulations.
- Depending on the outcome of our Risk Assessment we will consider whether it is necessary to close the service.
- We have a procedure in place to contact parents and employees at short notice.

Weather warnings

Please see the MET Éireann official document below for guidance regarding weather warnings. We will also follow the guidelines issued by the department for each weather event.

If Met Éireann issue a weather warning for Cork, the following procedure will apply.

- Yellow warning: The weather will be monitored by management and our service will remain open.
- Orange warning: The weather will be monitored by management and our service will try and remain open when it's safe to do so. In certain circumstances our services may have later opening and earlier closing times.
- Red warning: Our Service will close

Communication to Parents

Management will communicate to parents through the email. If assistance is needed from staff to contact parents at any point, staff will be instructed to do so by a member of management.

If a decision is made to close the service, this will be communicated to Parents as soon as possible to allow for parents to make other arrangements. Parents will be kept informed as events unfold to ensure there is no unnecessary travel. Parents must understand that all decisions made are taken considering the circumstances

of the current situation and our risk assessment on the health and safety of all children, staff and parents and our ability to comply with Regulations. The management will act as reasonable as possible given the circumstances.

Management of payments due during inclement weather

Clann Aire is a small business that relies heavily on parents' fees to be sustainable.

Full daycare Services including full daycare ECCE

If the decision is taken to close Clann Aire, due to a Red weather warning, then Parents will not be asked for payment for the day of the closure.

If Clann Aire opens during bad weather (Yellow or Orange weather warning), Parents will be charged their normal days rate.

Afterschool service

For families who have children attending our afterschool facility, if the decision is taken to close Clann Aire, due to a Red weather warning, then Parents will not be asked for payment for the day of the closure.

In the event the school unexpectedly closes and Clann Aire remains open, you will be charged your normal fees for the day/days of the closure or if you require childcare our creche fees daily rate will apply.

As we must walk the children to and from school during the inclement weather, this can be challenging and the safety of all children and staff must take priority. During periods of inclement weather, a risk assessment by the manager on duty will be carried out to assess the safety of the walk to school. We will do our utmost to keep our service going by taking all the necessary measures regarding safety. Parents will be informed by email as soon as possible if any changes to this service need to be made.

Review and Evaluation - After each incident the Management and staff of the centre will review and evaluate each event after it has taken place to ensure that all safety measures and procedures were conducted in accordance with best health and safety practices. Outcomes of these reviews will be recorded using the template below, and policies and procedures will be updated as appropriate.

This policy was adopted by Clondrohid Community Crèche Pre-School & After School Services.

Signed by: A. O'Keefe On behalf of Management (Manager)

Date: 19/06/2025

Date created: January 2025

 www.met.ie/warnings	STATUS YELLOW			STATUS ORANGE		STATUS RED	
	Weather that does not pose a threat to the general population but is potentially dangerous on a localised scale.			Infrequent and dangerous weather conditions which may pose a threat to life and property.		Rare and very dangerous weather conditions from intense meteorological phenomena.	
Wind Mean wind: 10 minute (higher on coasts/high ground/funnelling effects etc)	Widespread mean speeds between 55 and 65km/h and/or Widespread gusts between 90 and 110km/h			Widespread mean speeds between 65 and 80 km/h and/or Widespread gusts between 110 and 130 km/h		Widespread mean speeds in excess of 80 km/h and/or Widespread gusts in excess of 130 km/h	
Coastal Wind Warnings Mean speeds up to 30 nautical miles offshore	Gale force 8 or strong gale force 9.			Storm force 10.		Violent storm force 11/Hurricane Force 12.	
Rain Amounts can be up to double on windward upper slopes & impacts vary with soil moisture deficits	20mm – 30mm in 6 hrs or less. 30mm – 40mm in 12 hrs or less. 30mm – 50mm in 24 hrs			30mm – 50mm in 6 hrs or less. 40mm – 60mm in 12 hrs or less. 50mm – 80mm in 24 hrs		Greater than 50mm in 6 hrs or less. Greater than 60mm in 12 hrs or less. Greater than 80mm in 24 hrs or less.	
Snow/Ice Heavy rain can turn to snow when temperatures are around zero (up to around +4C)	Guidelines only 3cm or greater in 24hrs.			Guidelines only 3cm or greater in 6 hrs 5cm or greater in 12 hrs 10cm or greater in 24 hrs		Guidelines only 10cm or greater in 6 hrs 15cm or greater in 12 hrs 30cm or greater in 24 hrs	
Low temperature/Ice Ground temperatures can be as much as 10 degrees lower than air temps	Air minima of minus 3C or minus 4C expected over a wide area (localised lower values will occur). □ Dangerous surfaces due to ice and/or lying snow. Situation improving.			Air minima of minus 5C to minus 10C (or lower) expected over a wide area. □ Dangerous surfaces due to ice and/or lying snow/freezing rain. Situation stable		Air minima minus 10C (or below) for three consecutive nights or more. Maxima of minus 2C. □ Dangerous surfaces due to ice and/or lying snow/freezing rain. Situation likely to worsen	
High temperature High minima can be more impactful than high maxima	>27/15/>27 Maxima in excess of 27C expected and minima in excess of 15C over 36 hrs			>30/20/>30/>30 Maxima in excess of 30C for three days and minima of 20C for two nights (consecutive)		As orange criterion, but persisting for five or more consecutive nights.	
Thunderstorms Possible flash flooding	Localised thunderstorms/lightning activity/heavy rainfall.			Widespread thunderstorms/severe lightning activity/heavy rainfall/large damaging hail		Exceptional.	
Fog (or freezing fog)	Dense fog over a wide area or pockets of freezing fog.			Dense fog/freezing fog persisting over a wide area causing a widespread and significant driving hazard on national primary routes.		Exceptional.	

- Met Éireann is the National Meteorological Service of Ireland and issues weather forecasts and warnings to ensure the protection and safety of life and property and to enhance support for impact-based decision making for weather events
- Warnings are issued by the duty forecaster up to 48-hours in advance. The main suite of warnings are generally issued between 10am and midday but are updated as necessary. Advisories on potential hazards are issued up to a week in advance
- Impacts from wind/rain/snow etc. vary depending on location, recent weather conditions, state of ground, time of year as well as duration

