



**For the benefit of this policy Laura Green Trust – which is the governing body of Greenshoots Pre-school and Wraparound care is hereafter referred to as Greenshoots.**

### **Room Temperature Policy**

The temperature in the Pre-school will be monitored throughout the day on a daily basis by the staff to ensure a constant and comfortable environment for the children.

It is stated in the Workplace Regulations of 1992 *'that temperatures during working hours should be 'reasonable' and that a sufficient number of thermometers should be provided to enable persons at work to determine the temperature in any workplace inside a building. Temperatures should be checked and a record kept'*. The Pre-school adheres to these regulations.

There are no specific temperatures in law but the recommended temperature for the Preschool building is between 16 and 20 degrees. The temperature has to be 'reasonable' and that depends on the clothing people are wearing, and what they are doing e.g. a younger child who is sat playing is likely to need a warmer temperature than a child who is running around.

If it is decided by the Pre-school Manager/s that despite reasonable measures being taken that the temperature inside the building is too hot or too cold and the safety of the children and staff members is compromised, then the setting may close in the interests of safety.

The Pre-school gives consideration to sleeping children and the number of blankets they have on. Where we record a temperature and it is clearly too high, or too low then we will document what we would do about the temperature to bring it to within a reasonable level e.g. opening windows and doors or turning on heaters.

### **Heating problems**

The Pre-school has a responsibility to keep children safe and provide an environment that is a reasonable temperature. If the heating is not working and there is cold spell, non-functioning heaters makes the building unsafe. Parents / carers will be informed if the heating breaks down. Temporary heating can provide a safe, welcoming and comfortable environment. If temporary heaters are needed these would only be used as a temporary measure for a heating problem in an emergency situation to ensure rooms maintain an ambient temperature.

The use of such heaters will be fully risk assessed, and included as part of the setting's fire risk assessment.

The National Fire Protection Association offers the following advice on the use of free standing heaters and the Pre-school would follow this advice

- ensure that fixed guards are in place to prevent access to hot parts
- keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment
- have a three-foot "child-free zone" around heaters
- remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room
- Additionally, never leave children unattended with free standing heaters.
- Portable heaters should be positioned securely to ensure there is no risk of them being knocked over.

During the summer months the temperatures will be monitored on a regular basis to ensure the children or staff members do not overheat. All reasonable measures to reduce the temperature would be taken. Shaded areas within the outdoor environment will be set up and if needed fans used in the indoor area to keep the setting at a reasonable temperature.

If concerns are raised over the reasonable working temperature of the setting then we would carry out a 'thermal comfort risk assessment' as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive. We would act on the findings of the risk assessment by implementing appropriate controls. If it is determined we are working in a 'heat stress situation' then we would use a 'heat stress checklist' as recommended by the Health and Safety Executive and act on findings as appropriate.

Covid-19 - Ventilation helps prevent the spread of Covid so therefore windows and doors are open where safe to do so.

Highs windows are open and lower windows if the temperature is comfortable. Room Temperatures during the winter are monitored however there is always background ventilation. With the setting running with a free flow system the conservatory door is often fully open for easy access to the outdoors therefore allowing a good flow of natural ventilation.

All rooms including the office is ventilated.

Further information can be found on the Health and Safety Executive Website - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/temperature/index.htm>

This policy should be read alongside our Severe Weather Protocols.

This policy was adopted on \_\_\_\_\_

Signed on behalf of Laira Green Trust - Greenshoots Pre-school and Wraparound Care –

Chairperson, Laura Green Trust :

Greenshoots Manager (Strategy and Support) :

Laura Green Trust, c/o Laura Green Primary School, Bramley Road, Laura, Plymouth, Devon, PL3 6BP.  
Telephone : 01752 228272.

Registered Charity No: 1136071 Registered Company No: 7110815 England & Wales.