

Information for Support Staff and Accompanying Adults

Aim

To inform staff and adults supporting Forest School sessions.

Content of the Day

The group leader will give you an outline of the day and ways in which you can support the children

Risk Assessments/Staff experience

All activities on the site are thoroughly risk assessed and copies of these can be found in the Forest School Handbook. The Group Leader is a Qualified Forest Schools Level 3 Practitioner with a paediatric outdoor first aid certificate.

Safety Guidelines

There are certain procedures we use at Forest School with the children, such as safe conduct around the fire area or safe use of tools. The leader will model these procedures to show best practice. All adults must follow these actions and demonstrate good practice to the children throughout the session. Children will copy what they see rather than what they hear.

First Aid and General Health

First Aid kits are carried with the group at all times. We have a large one held at the Fire Pit Area alongside the Burns First Aid Kit. Any specific children's medication will be held by the leader at all times. You must make the Group Leader aware of any medical issues you may have.

Staff Clothing

We will be out in all weathers so it is important that you are dressed appropriately. Layers of clothing and waterproof outer wear, suitable walking boots or wellies with thick socks to keep feet warm. We need to be warm and comfortable as we are there to support the children. We also need to act as role models for the children. Feeling cold and damp isn't fun and can be dangerous. Hats and gloves are needed in the winter and sunhats, sun cream and glasses for the summer. Jeans should not be worn as they become very cold and dangerous when wet.

Toilets

Children can return to school with an adult, if necessary. We have hand washing and antibacterial gel on site.

Poor Weather

Our intention is to go out in all weather. If the weather is severely windy we will cancel the session as severe wind makes the forest site very dangerous.

Forest School Information for Parents

What is Forest School?

Forest School is a form of education that takes place in the outdoor environment where children are encouraged to work individually and as a team, to solve problems, assess risks, communicate with others and respect and appreciate the countryside. It enhances learning by giving them memorable and real life experiences. There is much evidence to show that, when working and playing outside, children grow in confidence, self-esteem, resilience, independence, self-belief, knowledge of the natural environment, trust, strength and creativity. In taking part in these activities they learn about nature, themselves, taking risks, how to solve problems, practical skills, working with others and many areas of the National Curriculum, including English, maths, science, technology, music and art.

Risk Assessments/Staff experience

All activities on site are thoroughly risk assessed and copies of these can be found in the Forest School Handbook. If you wish to see these please speak to the group leader.

Safety Guidelines

Children develop a strong understanding of the Forest School rules and a great respect for the environment we work in. Leaders lead by example from the clothes they wear to how they behave round the fire and with tools. Generally children will copy what they see rather than what they hear.

First Aid and General Health

First Aid kits are carried with the group at all times. Staff must be notified of any individual medication and responsibility for this will be with the group leader.

Clothing

We will be out in all weathers, so it is important that children are dressed appropriately. Layers of clothing and waterproof outer wear and suitable walking boots or wellies with warm socks are essential. They must be warm and comfortable as feeling cold and damp isn't fun and can be dangerous. Hats and gloves for winter and sunhats and sun cream for the summer are also required.

Toilets

Children can return to school with an adult, if necessary. We have hand washing and antibacterial gel on site.

Poor Weather

Our intention is to go out in all weather. However, if the weather is severe then we will cancel the session on safety grounds.