



Health and Safety

The following points are in addition to our Health and Safety policy which can be found on the school website. These Health and Safety points directly relate to Forest School sessions:

- It doesn't matter how many adults attend the Forest School session but the person in charge is always the trained Forest School Leader.
- The Forest School Leader has overall duty of care for the children in his/her charge, but all adults are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure children are safe.
- Everyone who is supporting in a Forest School session must sign and date a form to show they have read this handbook and appropriate risk assessments and understand and agree to comply with the general operating procedures for Forest School.
- The Forest School Leader or Assistant will always carry a First Aid kit and emergency bag.
- When tools are used the adult:child ratio will always be 1:1

Forest Schools aims to encourage risk management strategies that will ensure that young children start to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and on others. Through appropriate risk and challenge, children can build their confidence and solve problems and it is the Forest School leader who is responsible for ensuring that there are no unacceptable levels of risk.

To do this we:

- Look for potential hazards and decide who might be at harm.
- Think about how harm may occur and the worst outcome that we could face.
- Evaluate the current level of risk and decide on a course of action that will be put in place to minimise the potential risk.
- Re-evaluate the level of risk once our course of action has been put in place.
- Create a risk assessment and collate them in the Forest School file.
- Inform all adults that accompany the group and require them to sign each relevant risk assessment to show that they have read and understood them
- Regularly monitor and review each risk assessment. Through effective risk assessment and management the Forest School leader is responsible for ensuring that pupils are not exposed to unacceptable levels of risk.

Risk assessments in place are:

- Site risk assessment
- Activity risk assessments (e.g. for tool use, fire)
- Any pupil specific risk assessment (e.g. behaviour, medical)
- A daily site check before each session

As well as risk assessments, there will be appropriate staff to pupil ratios for each session, taking into account activities planned for and the needs of individuals.

Health and Safety Contd...



Cancellation

Forest school sessions will not take place for various reasons:

- Adverse weather conditions (high winds, thunderstorms, heavy rain).
- After the daily site check—if the leader believes there is something that the children are at risk of e.g. hanging dead wood, recent tree falling.
- Level 3 Forest School Leader is unable to deliver sessions.

In the event of cancelling a Forest School session, enhanced provision activities will be set up in the classrooms for the children to continue the child-centred approach.

Food and Drink

Children do not have access to food in the woodland area. If the session is longer than 60 minutes, water bottles can be taken. The only food consumed in the woodland area is food from an activity e.g. smores on the camp fire. Emergency water, for handwashing and drinking, will be taken down to the forest every session.

Toileting

There are no toilet facilities at the woodland area. The nearest toilets are located on back at school and children can walk across the field with a member of staff should they choose to use the toilets. 'Wild wees' are encouraged. Handwashing facilities are taken during every session.

Equipment

Essential Equipment	Additional Equipment
First Aid Kit	Fire kit and burns kit (camp fire activity).
Emergency Procedures	Eye wash
Medical Information & Contact Details	Survival Blankets
Risk Assessments	Hot Water in a Flask
Mobile Phone & School Radio	Snacks
Whistle	Torch
Individual Medication	Welfare Kits