



Food Hygiene Policy

“A campfire is a great opportunity and novel way of introducing learners to cooking. Preparing food and eating together around the fire fosters a sense of camaraderie among the group, promotes fine motor skills (by chopping and stirring), can boost children’s confidence in their own abilities and can help promote a healthy relationship with food and nature, all of which can benefit learners in wider life”.
<https://www.lancswt.org.uk/blog/molly-toal/cooking-treats-forest-school>

Therefore, at North Wootton Academy Forest School, we aim to promote good food hygiene within learners to promote a connection between nature and being healthy.

Initially, we adopt a ‘nil by mouth’ policy unless a specific activity has been led by the Forest School Leader. The ‘nil by mouth’ policy is used to eradicate dangerous foraging e.g. eating poisonous berries. Generally speaking, children who are ready to engage in simple cooking activities on the camp fire will participate in activities like toasting marshmallows and making s’mores. Cooking is always led by the Forest School Leader.

Preparation of Food

- Learners hands will be washed thoroughly with soap and water using the handwashing facilities in the Forest Area.
- If learners have any open wounds (cuts/grazes), these will be required to be covered using blue plasters or gloves.
- Any food that needs preparing e.g. vegetables chopping, cheese sliced, will be done on a clean chopping board.
- Raw meat will not be used for any form of cooking in Forest School sessions.
- All food will be checked against their ‘use by’ dates.
- Any food that needs to be refrigerated will be stored in the fridge in Acorns classroom until ready to leave for the Forest School session.

Food Disposal

- All unwanted food will be tied in a bin bag and disposed of in the normal waste disposal process carried out by Churchills Cleaning Team.
- Food waste cannot be left down in the Forest School area due to the possibility of unwanted rodents, e.g. rats.
- Food waste cannot be used to feed Forest animals e.g. muntjac deer, pigeons, squirrels.

Food Equipment

- All equipment that was used for food preparation must be cleaned using hot soapy water back at the main school building.

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