

Forest School Policy

The Acorn Nursery School's Equal Opportunity policy sets out clear statements of intent regarding the nursery's approach to Equal Opportunities. We are committed to giving each child every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

Provided below is a list of additional points and measures which relate directly to our Forest School sessions.

We will ensure equality of access for all children. This might include carrying out additional risk assessments for children with challenging behaviour or disability or planning for an additional adult to be present.

We will employ a range of styles, including collaborative learning, so that the children can value working together.

We will seek to involve parents in supporting the child's education.

We will take account of the performance and interests of all children when planning for future learning and setting challenging targets.

We will make best use of all available resources to support the learning of all children.

Designated person responsibilities

Forest School Leader - Leanne Larner

Outdoor First Aider For Adults And Paediatrics - Leanne Larner

Paediatric First Aiders - All staff in the setting

Personal Protective Equipment / Appropriate Clothing

No person will be permitted to attend Forest School or take part in tool use unless adequate protective clothing is worn:

No loose materials or cords

Gloves (to be worn as instructed when using tools)

In cold weather appropriate clothing will comprise of:

Layers

Waterproofs

Warm socks and boots

Gloves and hats

In warm weather appropriate clothing will comprise of:

Sun hat

Sun cream

In all weather appropriate clothing will comprise of:

Long sleeved top

Full length trousers

Closed and sturdy footwear

Risk Assessment Guidelines

A site risk assessment and check will be made prior to every Forest School session. In addition, an activity risk assessment will be established prior to any activity which may require it. Additional risk assessments may be carried out for those attending whose medical condition or behaviour requires it.

When carrying out risk assessments the Forest School Leader will be looking for:

Potential hazards and who it may harm

Worse case scenarios

Evaluate current level of risk

Decide on course of action or set of precautions that will be put in place

Re-evaluate risk after actions and weighing up against the benefit of activity

Inform adults accompanying the group and ensure they have read the risk assessments / actions

Regularly monitor and review each risk assessment.

Poor Weather Procedure

During severe weather we will not attend forest school but endeavour to carry out inside activities such as sensory / team games, crafts and so on.

Severe weather includes:

High winds

Thunderstorms

Extreme cold

The manager and the Forest School Leader will make this decision using the met office forecasts.

During wet weather a shelter will be erected immediately, or before the session, by the Forest School Leader to ensure a safe, dry area for the children.

Behaviour

Please refer to the setting policy regarding our general approach to behaviour management. In case of unwanted behaviour at Forest School the Forest School Leader and / or staff member assisting will:

Talk to the child

Remove peers if necessary

Call for help from the setting

Supervise and monitor behaviour

Log incidents and inform parents / guardians

Create risk assessment if necessary

Serious Incident

First aid / emergency procedures to be followed

Remain with the casualty and remove peers in the group from the situation, ensuring they are kept safe

Immediately notify the setting

Report to Ofsted etc as appropriate.

First Aid, Health and Safety Policy

The Acorn Nursery School's Health and Safety policies set out clear statements of intent regarding their approach to the health and safety of its children, staff and visitors to the setting. Addition points which relate directly to Forest School are as follows:

A named and trained Forest School Leader will be in charge and have duty of care during each session. However, all adult helpers are to take reasonable steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of everyone attending each session.

All adult helpers are to read all relevant documents.

The Forest School Leader will ensure they have means of contacting the setting.

The Forest School Leader will begin every session by explaining / recapping the 'Forest School rules'

No picking anything

Nothing in our mouths (except our water and our food)

Drag sticks longer than our arm behind us with one end remaining on the ground

Remain within the Forest School area only

Only one person in the tree at a time

Lay down in the hammock and two children maximum

HAVE FUN

The Forest School Leader will be responsible for maintenance and checking of tools prior to each use.

The Forest School Leader will be responsible for training the children to use the tools and equipment safely and appropriately. Ratios when using tools will always be 1:1 with the exception of potato peelers where the ratio will be a maximum of 1:2

The Forest School Leader will be the only person to erect, light, supervise, maintain and extinguish the fire. All fires will be kept within the fire pit and the size of the fire will always be kept to a minimum.

A well equipped first aid kit will be onsite whenever the area is being used and it can be utilised by all members of staff.

All staff attending will hold a current paediatric first aid certificate and the Forest School Leader will hold a current paediatric to adult outdoor first aid certificate.

Any accidents or first aid administered, however minor, will be recorded on an accident or incident form by a member of staff and signed and reviewed by the parents / carers.

Details relating to any allergies or medical conditions relevant to participants should be made known to the Forest School Leader and information passed onto all other staff attending.

Children will be counted out and counted in when moving from setting to site and vice versa.

Parent Communication And Involvement

Any parent is welcome to help with Forest School sessions, providing that all relevant procedures have been read and compliance agreed.

All parents of children attending Forest School will be asked to read the handbook and sign a consent form.

Policies, procedures and risk assessments will all be available to read on request.