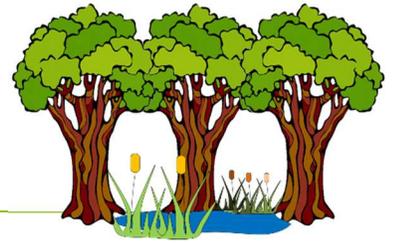


Fire Safety Policy



Campfires and Kelly kettles are an integral part of Forest School and will be utilised in many sessions. One of the Forest Schools main aims is to ensure all the children and adults are safe, and therefore it is important that all fires and Kelly kettles are used safely and with as little risk as possible.

- Fires will only be lit in pre-defined areas; campfires will only be lit in the fire circle.
- The fire circle is enclosed by logs and set out as instructed by Archimedes Forest School plans (see fire circle plan).
- Kelly kettles will only be used on flat surfaces and leaf debris will be moved out of the way prior to the fire being lit.
- Fire is always strictly supervised by the Forest School Leader and is never left unattended. There is always a bucket of water near to water and a damp cloth next to the fire. Children will all be reminded of the rules of the fire pit before each session.
- Stand behind the log, step over the log and sit down, stand up, turn around and step over the log, children are not allowed to cross the circle or step into the circle, unless with a Leader.
- Children will be taught how to deal with smoke, by turning their head to the side or holding their breath with their eyes closed for 25 seconds. Children will be told to avoid sitting in a clear smoke path, if it is visible.

Responsibility

- Only an adult is allowed to light the fire, unless the Leader asks for help and the children are given strict instructions they must follow.
- Fires are only lit with a strike stick and cotton wool or other natural tinder. No flammable liquids will be permitted in the Forest School.
- Children may be asked to add fuel to the fire, under controlled circumstances and supervision.
- A fire glove will be right next to the fire as will a bucket of water.
- No fires will be left lit at the end of a session (Kelly kettle or campfire). At the end of each session, the fire area will be soaked with water.
- Ash will be finely distributed around the woodland floor to naturally decompose.
- Only adults are to light the Kelly kettle unless supervised by a Leader.
- Children can feed the Kelly kettle with adult supervision. Children will also be told the correct way to do this (Hand should never be placed over the top of the kettle).
- No accelerants are to be used.
- No plastics will be burned.
- Nobody can throw anything onto the fire except the specified Leader.

Extinguishing

- All fires must be extinguished at the end of the session by pouring on water.
- Whenever possible, the fire should be allowed to burn through to ash.
- The Forest School Leader should ensure that if any logs remain at the end they are separated from one another and fully dowsed with water.
- Finally the ash should be stirred until all smoke and steam cease.
- When fully cold, ash and partially burned logs should be removed from the fire pit and scattered through the wood to enable natural decomposition to take place.

Kelly Kettles

- Only adults are to light the tinder in the fire pan unless children are under the direct supervision of the Forest School Leader or a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner.
- The storm kettle will only be used on level ground swept clear of leaf litter.
- The cork bung will never be left in the spout.
- The kettle will never be allowed to boil dry.
- Children will be seated on the log benches, unless invited to feed the fire pan on a one to one basis with the Forest School Leader or Level 3 Forest School Practitioner. All children and adults doing this will wear a fire gauntlet on the feeder hand. Fuel will be of long enough lengths to enable it to be held at one end placed into the Kelly kettle chimney from the side. Hands must never be placed directly over the chimney even if wearing gauntlets.
- The fuel should be allowed to burn to ash where possible, but if necessary, the fire can be extinguished with water.
- Only adults may lift the kettle off the fire pan, using the handle which must be held at right angles to the cylindrical body of the kettle. Only adults may pour the boiling water out using the handle and the chain provided.