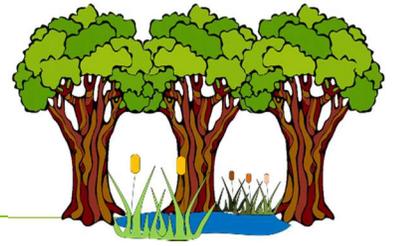


# Health and Safety Policy

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The Forest School Health and Safety Policy is an addition to the schools Health and Safety Policy and is in agreement with the current Health and Safety Policy. Health and Safety during Forest School sessions is paramount throughout every activity taking place. Children are regularly reminded of safe practice and how to ensure they are adhering to safety rules laid out by leaders. Forest School aims to provide children with opportunities to develop independence and self-awareness and to take responsibility for themselves. It is important that early on, children understand that actions have consequences and that there are risks within the woodland that cannot be taken away, such as ground roots etc. The Forest School Leader will carry out daily risk assessments prior to each session and a generic assessment will be made each term to take into consideration seasonal changes.

It is essential that these points are adhered to, to ensure:

- A safe environment with minimal risk of health
  - Prevention of accidents
  - Equipment is used, maintained and stored safely
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- Everyone involved in a Forest School session is shown the risk assessments of sites and activities. Staff and volunteers should be made aware of the schools Health and Safety Policy, First Aid Policy and ensure they adhere to them.
  - All members of Staff have undertaken Child Protection training and any concerns will be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
  - The Forest School Leader and any staff member/volunteer involved in a Forest School session will be DBS checked and employed in line with Safer Recruitment Procedures.
  - The safety equipment and first aid bag will be checked and is in good working order, if something is taken out or used, it will be replaced for the next session.
  - Suitable clothing and appropriate footwear must be worn for different weather (such as wellington boots during heavy rain, or sunscreen and hats during hot weather).
  - Fire is always strictly supervised by the Forest School Leader and is never left unattended. There is always a bucket of water and a damp cloth next to the fire. Children will 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.*

It is the responsibility of the Forest School Leaders to ensure that the First Aid Kit and any tools or equipment are maintained. Checks will be carried out each week.