

Fire Policy

Lighting and using fires is an important part of Forest School. The campfire is used to warm us up during the colder months, allows us to cook food and make hot drinks, plus learning how to properly set and light one can be very empowering!

Getting used to being around fire allows the learners to be responsible for their own safety and the safety of others in a supported environment.

Preparing the Site:

- Do not light the fire in extremely windy or dry conditions.
- There will be a designated fire space that is away from any overhanging branches or plants, stones, and surface roots.
- The fire area should be located on flat ground, at least 5 metres away from any buildings.
- Avoid setting the fire on peaty areas, as this can cause underground fires.
- Clear away any leaf litter and stones before setting the fire.
- Create a fire surround with logs to clearly mark the fire pit area.
- A seating circle can be set up around the fire pit.
- Keep a fire blanket, full watering can or bucket, and plunge-bucket for burns close by when using the fire.

Health & Safety:

- At least one adult must remain with the fire at all times.
- There must be an appropriate first aid kit on site if lighting the fire.
- No running around the fire.
- If someone needs to get across the fire circle, then they must go around the outside of the seating circle, not through the middle.
- When working with the fire (lighting, cooking, adding wood), the person must be sitting or kneeling. Do not lean over the fire.
- Children can only light fires with adult supervision.
- No accelerants are to be used on fires.
- No burning plastics.
- No loose clothing should be worn when working with fires (dangling scarves, loose sleeves), and long hair should be tied back.

Extinguishing:

- All fires must be properly extinguished before leaving the Forest School site.
- Carefully use a watering can or bucket of water to pour over the fire or remaining ashes.
- The fire/ashes should be doused until there is no more smoke or steam.
- Spread the remaining ashes with a poker to make sure there are no more embers. Use more water if required.
- If a lot of ash has built up in the fire pit over time, then this may need to be removed and spread on the garden or in the surrounding woodland. Only do this once the ashes have fully cooled, preferably after 24 hours.

Campfire Cooking:

- Children will only be allowed to cook over the fire with adult supervision.
- Hands must be washed thoroughly before starting any cooking or eating any food.
- When using toasting sticks, they must not be waved around and must be kept lower than eye level.
- If something on a toasting stick catches fire do not wave it around to put it out. Gently and calmly blow out the flame or let it fall into the main fire.

Dated: 1 st April 2023	Reviewed: 1 st April 2024	Signed: C.Howells	C. Howells
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