

Code of Conduct

How should we act within our Forest School space?

Entering the Woodland.

We are excited to be able to enter the woodland and use everything the space has to offer. However we will remember that as we use the space, we are entering the home of many different living things and therefore we need to be mindful of this in everything we do.

Collecting Wood.

When we collect wood, we must only collect it from areas we have been allowed to. We must not take it from living trees. We must be careful of how much we collect, including fallen twigs, sticks and branches, being mindful of disturbing the habitats of many different living things.

Boundaries.

Each session we will be made aware of our boundaries and know where our base is. At times we may venture around the rest of the school grounds but individual boundaries will be made clear at these times and where our base will be.

Using rope and string.

We use rope and string to tie sticks together, make shelters and for other activities led by the adults. When children are playing games with string, they will be closely monitored to ensure safety and the reactions of the children.

Carrying and transporting materials.

We will all make sure that we lift any objects safely by bending our knees. We will also be safe when dragging, rolling or pulling items using our hands or rope. When selecting branches and sticks we will follow the rule of no thicker than our wrist for what we should be lifting and carrying. We will also make sure we use sticks shorter than our arm's length.

At the fire pit.

Fires will only happen within the fire pit in the fire square which is surrounded by natural seating to form our fire circle. We will only be allowed to walk within the fire circle when invited to do so by an adult. Nobody will be allowed within the fire square. If we wish to move away from the fire circle or sit somewhere else than we must step behind the natural seating and walk around the outside of it.

Lighting a fire.

We will all recap safety procedures before lighting a fire in the fire pit. Once the fire is lit we will make sure that it is not left unattended.

Eating and Drinking.

We will follow the rule that we will not eat anything found in the woodland, unless within the session it has been planned to do so. We will remember that we should not put our hands in our mouths and regularly clean and wash our hands.

Using tools.

All tools have their own guidance and risk assessments. These will be reviewed before each session to remind adults and children of how to use the tools and will be reviewed regularly following anything that occurs in sessions. The guidelines include how to use the tool, what protective clothing to wear, safe distance from others, how to walk with the tool, how to take care and maintain the tool and how to pass it correctly.

Digging.

Children are discouraged to dig holes due to high levels of disturbance of creatures' habitats. If the children are careful, we can move top soil to search for things, using fingers and small sticks.

Toileting.

We will ensure all members of the group use the toilet before starting their forest school session. If needed throughout a session, then children will be able to access toilets within the nearby school building.

Tree climbing.

We are permitted to climb trees that have been marked as safe. An adult will be present to support if needed and the ground will be clear of sharp objects.

Leaving the site.

Where possible we will adhere to the ethos of leaving no trace. Some areas of our Forest School woodland will be sacrificial, allowing for permanent features such as mud kitchens. At the end of each session, things like shelters will be taken down, rubbish collected and things used returned to where they were found.