**PRESTON GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**Forest school**

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 **Forest School Policies**

**Forest School Leader: Miss Jennifer Beavers**

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The following policies are the requirements for the safe running of Forest School sessions. They are in addition to the main school policies and do not replace them.

All members of staff and volunteer helpers have a duty to follow these policies and should be familiar with their contents.

**The school is committed to:**

* Providing a safe and healthy working environment for staff, pupils and visitors.
* Ensuring adequate resources are provided for successful delivery of forest school sessions.
* Providing effective information, instruction and training for forest school staff
* Sustaining positive health and safety attitudes and behaviours through communication and consultation with staff during forest school sessions.
* Encouraging the reporting of all forest accidents, incidents and their subsequent investigation to facilitate the prevention of recurrence.
* Measuring and reviewing performance and taking actions on lessons and skills learned.
* Continual improvement in health and safety management and performance throughout forest school delivery.



Normal operating procedures

policy

**Forest School is an inspirational educational ethos that focuses on developing children's personal, social and emotional development through regular outdoor woodland experiences.**  The ethos of Forest Schools is to allow children the time and space to develop skills, interest and understanding through a range of activities which provide practical, hands-on experiences in a natural environment. The Forest School ethos is embedded in our forest school policies.

**Forest school sessions aim to:**

* Provide exciting, educational outdoor opportunities for all learners. Covering all 7 areas of learning within early years.
* We aim to teach children about caring for the environment in a variety of ways.
* As a school we feel it is important for the children to receive their educational opportunities in a different/ natural outdoor setting.
* Life skills will be taught through the forest school sessions, building confidence, self-esteem and improving children’s wellbeing.
* Children will be able to experience risk taking in a safe environment and learn how to assess and review their risk taking with resilience.
* In Forest School sessions, children become involved with the setting and involved with the Forest school rules to ensure their safety.



Fire Safety Policy

At Preston Grange Primary School campfires are an important part of Forest School and are used in many sessions. Preston Grange Primary School aims to ensure that all children and adults participating in Forest School sessions with fires will do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible.

Sitting around the campfire as a group: learning, listening, singing, making and sharing food cooked on the fire is a wonderfully communal and magical experience for children. It also enables their senses to be stimulated by letting them feel its warmth. They will watch the flames dance and experience its rich smell. We aim for it to it capture their imaginations and enthusiasm!

We aim to provide high quality campfire sessions involving fire, delivered by our fully qualified forest school leader.

The following procedures are put in place to ensure the children achieve the most out of their campfire sessions.

**Procedures-**

Location:

* There is a selected area where fires will take place. Fires are strictly limited to the forest school area.
* Our campfire area is enclosed ensuring children know where fires will be taking place.
* Fire areas are surrounded by seating logs at least 1 metre from the fire pit.
* When the campfire is in use, children are not permitted to access the area without permission.
* When allowed to access the campfire, children must walk around the outside of the seating logs and wait for permission to step over. Once permission has been given, they must sit, making sure their legs are touching the log and not outstretched.
* Once seated around the campfire, the children must remain seated unless directed to move by an adult.

Safety and Responsibility:

* Only the forest school leader is permitted to light fires unless a single child is selected under direct supervision from the forest school leader.
* Fires are lit using fire lighting blocks, newspaper, cotton wool and matches or a fire striker.
* No flammable liquids are to be used to light or accelerate fires.
* No plastics are to be burnt.
* If sessions involve children adding fuel to the fire, this must be done with one to one supervision from the forest school leader.
* Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. A child’s hand should never go over the fire
* All long hair should be tied up and any dangling objects e.g. necklaces should be removed.

Extinguishing:

* It is the forest school leader’s responsibility to ensure that all fires must be extinguished at the end of a session.
* Water should always be to hand during campfire sessions.
* Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.



Use Of Tools Policy

 At Preston Grange Primary School, using tools is an important part of Forest School sessions, as it enables children to develop new, practical skills that help them develop self-confidence. We aim to keep tools maintained to an immaculate safe standard.

Children will be taught how to handle tools properly and to treat them with respect. We aim to provide high quality tool sessions, delivered by our fully qualified forest school leader. The Forest school leader will not allow the children to use tools until they are ready in every way, emotionally and physically.

The following procedures are put in place to ensure the children achieve the most out of their tool sessions.

**Procedures-**

* Staff to child ratio will be 1:2
* Tools will be kept in a locked secure shed in the forest school tool talk area and only removed by the forest school leader.
* Running and pointing with tools is not allowed.
* Children will be taught how to use each tool and reminded how to use the tool, with a tool talk at the start of every tool session.
* All tools will be counted and returned into their designated bag after use and returned to the tool shed.
* Volunteer helpers must receive basic training from the forest school leader, on the use of individual tools before being allowed to help the children with them.
* Any child who misbehaves during a tool session will be instantly removed from the session for their own and other children’s safety.



Disposal Of Waste Policy

Preston Grange forest school site should always be left the way it was found, in a clean, tidy condition and not littered by waste of any kind from the previous forest school session. All members of the group are responsible for helping to collect and remove any waste created on the forest school site.

The forest school leader aims to Educate the children to a high standard, understanding the importance of disposing of waste in the correct way.

The following procedures are put in place to ensure the children dispose of any waste in the correct way.

**Procedures-**

* Black bags will be kept at the forest school site and handed out to the teacher or children to collect any rubbish.
* Recyclable rubbish should be collected in a separate bag to general rubbish.
* No food or litter should ever be deposed of on the fire.
* The area is checked at the very end by the forest school leader to ensure there no food traces to avoid vermin being attracted to the area.
* Any milk taken to the forest which is not drank, should be squeezed into bucket and disposed of in a classroom, down the sink.
* Children will always be reminded to collect any rubbish and not to litter in the forest school area.



Health and Hygiene Policy

As a school it is important to us to ensure all children attending forest school sessions, do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible.

The forest school leader aims to educate all children of what is expected of them, to be as healthy and hygienic as possible at all times at the forest school site.

The following procedures are put in place to ensure the children adhere to the school’s standard of health and hygiene.

**Procedures:**

General health and hygiene:

* Take away everything you bring with you.
* Hands should be washed or sterilised using sanitising gel before cooking or eating and after going to the toilet.
* When returning to the classroom hands should be washed thoroughly with soap and warm water.
* There will be a designated area for hand and dishwashing while at the forest site
* Food should be stored in sealed containers and any dropped food to be picked up immediately and placed in black bags provided.

Toileting:

Toileting is also something which needs to be considered while working on the forest site, especially when working with children.

* Children will be encouraged to use the toilet before leaving school.
* An adult, with the relevant DBS checks, will accompany the children to the area
* If a child has a wetting or soiling accident, they will be changed in accordance with the Schools Personal Care Policy



Behaviour Policy

Preston Grange Primary School have a high standard of behaviour. The forest school leader aims to educate children, so they have a full understanding of the expectation of behaviour expected of them while taking part in a forest school session. The forest school leader aims to make the forest school sessions a relaxing and satisfying experience.

* During forest school sessions, the forest school leader aims to
* Develop an awareness of acceptable and responsible behaviour towards one another and the outdoor environment.
* Promote respect, team work and positive relationships.
* Work within the boundaries set by themselves.
* Develop pride in their achievements and try their best.
* Listen carefully.

The following procedures are put in place to ensure the behaviour policy is met.

**Procedures:**

* The forest school leader’s responsibility to create a positive environment, which encourages and reinforces caring, nurturing and acceptable behaviour towards one another, the environment and equipment available.
* It is important for the forest school leader to give verbal praise to children demonstrating good work, good behaviour, cooperation and good group work.
* After each session the children will have to take part in listening time, this will give them time to reflect on their session.
* The forest school leader will approach the children one by one to ensure they are happy and content through the session.