



Forest and Beach School Policy

This policy should be read in conjunction with the school's 'Learning Outside the Classroom and Off-site Educational Visits Policy'

UNCRC Articles: As a Rights Respecting School we take seriously a child's right to:

Article 24: You have the right to the best health care possible, safe water to drink, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help you stay well.

Article 28: You have the right to a good quality education. You should be encouraged to go to school to the highest level you can.

Article 29: Your education should help you to use and develop your talents and abilities. It should also help you to learn to live peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.

Article 31: You have the right to play and rest.

Reviewer: Claire Eales

Reviewed and approved by Full Governors:

Adopted and ratified by Governors on: 09.06.21

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Introduction

Forest and Beach School is seen as an important part of the curriculum at Lyndhurst Infant School. Forest School complements the EYFS and Key Stage One curriculum delivered at the school and fits in with the whole school vision of developing an organic curriculum that is centred around the individual child enabling all children to reach their full potential socially, emotionally and academically during their time with us.

Forest and Beach School sessions shall be planned and delivered by a member of staff trained to OCN level 3 in Forest School and Beach Schools. They will be supported by other members of staff from the school. The Forest School Leader will have an appropriate outdoor first aid certificate and will be responsible for all emergencies during the sessions.

All children will be given the opportunity to access Forest and Beach School sessions in each academic year. This will include whole class sessions and smaller groups targeted for pastoral or academic support.

The sessions will be planned so all children will be able to participate irrespective of gender, race or special needs. Additional support will be given to children who need it to be able to access the sessions.

Regular observations will be taken of all children during the Forest and Beach School sessions by the child's key worker and other adults working with the children. These will be discussed after the sessions and used to plan the next steps for the children in line with the school's policy on assessment, recording and reporting.

The Forest School sessions will take place on the school grounds in 'out door learning area and forest school stable'. Beach School sessions will take place on the beach in front of Windsor Road on Worthing Beach.

The Health and Safety Policy for Forest and Beach School will be followed for all sessions and risk assessments will be in place for all activities.

Health and Safety Policy: Forest School General

All Forest and Beach School sessions should be planned and delivered by a member of staff who has attended a Forest and Beach School OCN recognised training course. The Forest and Beach School Leader is responsible for the Health and Safety of the staff and children when in the Forest and Beach School.

The Forest and Beach School Leader is responsible for surveying the Forest and Beach School site for hazards before each session and completing the appropriate risk assessments for all the activities that are going to be undertaken.

The Forest and Beach School Leader is to take control of any emergencies and all staff will follow the Emergency Action Plan for the Forest and Beach School Site which has been introduced to all staff when inducting them in Forest and Beach School sessions.

A mobile phone should be kept with the Forest and Beach School Leader at all times with emergency contact numbers for the School, Head Teachers and office.

General Health and Welfare:

All staff to be aware of the general welfare of children, young children get cold very quickly so additional clothes should be available along with the emergency blanket and survival bag. Hot drinks and high calorific snacks should be available on cold days. Forest and Beach School sessions should finish if children are starting to get cold.

School has extra supply of wellington boots, waterproof coats and trousers which children can use if they do not have appropriate clothing.

The sheet with allergies and medical conditions should be brought to each Forest School session. Inhalers should be kept in an easily accessible box in stable.

On hot days' children should wear hats and sun cream in line with the school's current policy on sun cream.

The Forest and Beach School Leader should have a current certificate in outdoor first aid and is to take responsibility in case of any accidents and emergencies. Accidents should be reported to parents on the accident forms that are used following school procedures.

Weather:

The Forest and Beach School Leader to keep a close eye on the weather conditions and cancel or shorten sessions if necessary.

Sessions should be cancelled in high winds and extremely cold temperatures. After ice and snow the site should be carefully checked for hazards. The site should also be checked for fallen branches after high winds and storms

Beach school sessions are planned in line with tide times.

Clothing:

All children to wear sensible footwear, ideally wellies, snow boots or trainers. No sandals, crocs or other open shoes to be worn during sessions. Socks to be worn to protect legs. School have extra wellies and waterproof clothing for children to use.

Children to wear long trousers to protect their legs from scratches and stings.

During cold and damp weather children to wear waterproof tops and trousers. Staff to assess whether they think the children are wearing sufficient layers of warm clothing and provide spares when necessary.

Children to wear sun hats or caps during hot weather.

If a child is not wearing the appropriate clothing and spares cannot be found the child can be left with the other group in the school. In cases like this the parents should be informed

at the end of the session so that they are able to provide the appropriate clothing for the next session.

Toilet Arrangements:

Children to use toilets in the school buildings during Forest School.

During Beach School the Beach School Leader would remind children to go before leaving school and will have contacted local business to check if needed then child and school staff can go there. For example, Windsor Hotel.

Food and Drink:

- Forest and Beach School Leader to ensure children bring snack and water bottles during morning. If sharing a snack sharp knives for cutting fruit to be kept with blade cover on in secure box in stable.
- On colder days Hot Chocolate/Ribena kept in vacuum flasks, staff responsible for checking temperature before children drink it.
- Staff to ensure that children clean their hands thoroughly with wipes and antibacterial wipes before eating or drinking anything.
- Forest School Leader responsible for preparing any hot snacks on the fire. Children not to touch hot pans and kettles (see Fire Policy). Forest School Leader responsible for hygienic preparation of food in line with current Health and Safety regulations. Forest School Leader responsible for ensuring food is thoroughly cooked and at an appropriate temperature when given to the children.

Refuse Disposal:

All food waste to be returned to school in a tied black bag to be disposed of in outside black bin. No food to be left in Forest/Beach School site to discourage rodents.

Tool Policy at Forest School:

- The Health and Safety Policy shall be followed and risk assessments put in place before tools are used at the Forest School.
- Tools are to be stored in a secure shed at the main school. They are to be transported to each session in the tool box. An inventory of the tools in the box is to be checked at the beginning and end of each session to ensure that no dangerous tools are left at the Forest School. Only tools needed for that session will be taken out of the stable.
- The Forest School Leader is responsible for cleaning and maintaining the tools after each use. Any defective tools are to be removed immediately and replaced before they are used again.
- All tools should be kept in the tool box whilst not in use in the Forest School. Tools are to be removed and put back in the box by a responsible adult who ensures the fastenings are always kept closed.
- Tools should only be introduced to the children by the trained Forest School Leader. This should always be done by using the recommended tool talks and demonstration by the Leader; they should only be used when the Forest School Leader feels that the children understand how to use them safely.

- The tools should always be used in the designated tool area in the Forest School. The Forest School Leader should make sure that this area is always kept clear of dangers and trip hazards and that the group understand the need to walk sensibly around this area.
- Potato peelers should be one of the first tools used by the Reception children. These can be used in groups of 4 with the Forest School Leader, to remove bark from sticks.
- The bow saw should first be introduced to the Year One children with a trained adult on one end with the child having the end with the handle; most children will always use the saw like this. If some children get confident with using the saw like this and the Forest School Leader feels that they are able to progress, two children can use the saw, with the Forest School Leader closely supervising them. Only one saw shall be out at a given time.
- The loppers shall be used with one Reception child and the Forest School Leader helping them position them and squeeze them together.
- Hand and palm drills will be introduced to Year One children with a trained adult helping them to position and turn the drill.
- The Bill Hook is only to be used by the Forest School Leader because of the age of the children.
- This policy will be reviewed regularly.

Fire Policy at Forest School:

- The Health and Safety Policy shall be followed and risk assessments put in place before fires are lit at the Forest School.
- Fires shall only be lit by the Forest School Leader and only within the fire pit area.
- The fire pit area shall be developed using the recommendations of Archimedes training. The seating logs must be at least 2m away from the fire pit area and the area will be fenced to prevent children from wandering into the area.
- The children will walk behind the benches for safety in an anti-clockwise direction. A fire will only be lit with a group if the Forest School Leader feels all the group understand and will be able to follow all the safety rules and guidelines. As the children are young, only one child will be allowed to be in the fire pit area at a time with the Forest School Leader.
- Before using the fire pit area, the Forest School Leader will check the area for hazards. It is to be kept clear from trip hazards at all times.
- The fire will always be lit by a flint. It will be kept small and manageable. The Forest School Leader will be responsible for the fire at all times that it is lit and will never leave a lit fire while children are in the area.
- There will always be plentiful supplies of water for emergencies in the fire pit area and the first aid kit will include the appropriate equipment for dealing with scalds and burns.
- All people feeding the fire will be shown and expected to use the respect position at all times. This is the safest position to be in to prevent tumbles into the fire.
- Pans and kettles will only be removed from the fire by the Forest School Leader using a flame proof glove. They will make sure the children are aware of the dangers of touching hot pans and will always ensure that food and drink given to children will be at an appropriate temperature.
- All waste from the fire area will be collected and returned to the school to be disposed of at the end of each session.
- The fire will be spread out and left to die down and then doused with plentiful amounts of water before the group leave the Forest School. The Forest School Leader is responsible for ensuring that the fire is out and the area is left safe before leaving the site.

Insurance:

Insurance for activities within Forest School are included within the school's insurance policy.

Equal Opportunities:

In the first instance please refer to the school Equalities Policy. All people involved in Forest School sessions will be treated with respect and equality. Our priority is to ensure that children and adults have access to a safe and secure environment. We believe that any contributions made by staff, volunteers and participants in our sessions will be listened to and appreciated.

Remote Learning

Remote Learning provision for forest and beach school experiences for KS1 and EYFS is in line with current lockdown restrictions. Activities are combined through the curriculum subject power points. Stand-alone outdoor experiences for health and wellbeing are set up on google classroom and the school's social media for all year groups. All Remote Learning mirrors the in school curriculum and has been available weekly since 1st October 2020.