

## **Forest School - Managed Fire Safety Policy and Procedure**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Review Date</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>	<b>Nominated Governor</b>
<b>October 2020</b>	<b>October 2021</b>	<b>Ian Carson</b>	<b>Catherine Khan</b>

Campfires are an important part of Forest School and are used in many sessions. The Forest School leader will aim 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.

### **Location**

There will be an established fire area which will be the only area where fire will be permitted. The Forest School leader will establish the area.

The site will be chosen so as to avoid tree roots, peaty soil, deep leaf mould and uneven ground etc.

The fire area will be centrally located with a hard vegetation free surface to prevent the spread of fire.

### **Seating Arrangements**

Children will be seated approximately 1.5 metres for the fire pit this area being demarcated by seating logs and / or benches. Exit points will be created at regular intervals around the fire circle logs and benches.

When the campfire is in use, participants are not permitted to access the area immediately surrounding the fire without permission.

All participants will be taught how to change seats by standing, stepping back over the log and then walking around the outside of the seating area. They must never cross the inner area.

Participants will be advised how to deal with fire smoke in an appropriate way. Where there is an obvious wind direction seating in the line of smoke will not be used. Wherever possible, asthma sufferers will be seated in positions well away from the line of smoke.

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### **Safety**

When a fire is being used there will be a fire first aid kit available in addition to the standard first aid kit.

A fire bucket containing water will be available on site and its position indicated at the start of the session.

Either a fire blanket or a wet towel will also be made available and its position indicated.

A container of fresh clean water will be available to immerse for immersing a burn should it be required.

Before a fire is lit participants must demonstrate that they are able to follow instructions.

Weather conditions should also be considered. High winds or very dry conditions would mean that fire lighting does not continue.

Participants working with the fire should ensure that long hair is tied back and loose clothing is fastened or secured.

Only adults are permitted to light fires, unless children are under the direct supervision of the Forest School leader.

**The number of participants invited into the fire area at any time will be at the discretion of the Forest School leader and will be dependent upon the individuals involved, specific conditions and the nature of the activities based around the fire.**

Fires may be lit in a variety of ways but flammable liquids are not permitted.

When children are invited to add fuel to the fire this will only be undertaken with adult supervision.

Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the fire. A fire glove should be used.

Plastics are not to be burnt.

Fires should never be left unattended.

### **Extinguishing Fires.**

All fires must be extinguished at the end of the session.

Whenever possible, fires should be allowed to burn out naturally. With careful management this is easily achievable.

If larger logs have been used these should be separated out from other ashes.

The fire must be doused down with water. It is advisable that ashes are stirred once doused in case there are any hot spots remaining. A good indication that the fire is fully extinguished is when all smoke and steam has ceased.

It is advisable to remove any build up of ashes from the site.

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**NB**

Managed Fire Risk Assessment

A risk assessment has been prepared for fires bases around this method of management. However, as with any risk assessment it is advisable to review and modify as appropriate dependent upon the individuals involved and specific conditions.

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<b>Chair of Governing Body:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	