

Forest School – Safe tool use Policy

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To be reviewed – 31st May 2022

There may be occasions at Forest school when children and young people use tools, this develops their physical skills and builds confidence. Tools used include:

- Wooden mallets
- Potato peelers
- Vegetable knives
- Pen knives
- Loppers
- Sheath knife
- Bow saw

We will keep all participants safe by:

- Storing tools in a safe place away from children and young people when not in use
- Keeping a checklist and ensuring that all items are returned after use
- Maintaining tools to ensure they are as easy to use as possible
- Considering children's physical abilities before introducing them to a new tool
- Considering children and young people's emotional maturity and ability to understand the need for safe use before introducing them to a new tool
- Providing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment as needed
- Demonstrating tools and how to use them safely to the children
- Using tools for an appropriate use
- Completing risk / benefit assessments prior to use
- Using a dynamic risk assessment approach throughout each session
- Removing tools immediately if a safety concern is identified