

Forest School campfire safety policy

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To be reviewed – April 2028

Campfires at forest school are an exciting and beneficial learning experience. When we light a campfire the following considerations will be made:

- Fires will only be lit using designated fire pits on sites with permission of the landowner
- Fires will be lit away from low canopy branches
- Campfire areas will be enclosed by logs to prevent the fire spreading
- Wind direction will be considered when lighting the fire and positioning the seating
- Seating logs will be positioned in a circle at least 1 metre from the fire pit
- Children will be taught to step over logs and walk around the outside of the seating circle and not go inside unless invited to do so, this will be practised regularly
- Once seated children will be instructed to remain seated unless told to move by an adult
- Fires will only be lit under the supervision of a level 3 Forest School qualified practitioner (or equivalent)
- No flammable liquids will be used to light or accelerate fires
- Natural materials will be used as fuel
- The hand should never go over the fire and fireproof gloves should be worn when adding fuel or moving cooking containers
- Children will be supervised by adults when practising to use a fire steel to light cotton wool and further developing their skills
- Buckets of water, fire blanket and burns kit will be sited close to the fire
- Long sleeves and trousers will be worn by all participants
- Advice on dealing with smoke will be given to participants
- Fires will be fully extinguished appropriately at the end of a session. This will be stirred until all smoke or steam has ceased. Any remains of logs will be separated
- Ash will be removed from the fire pit when there is a build-up once it has totally cooled.