

## Forest School – Safe tool use

Policy Date – 13th April 2025

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To be reviewed – April 2028

There will 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
- Secateurs
- Loppers
- Sheath knives
- Bow saws
- Pruning saws
- Chisels
- Bill hooks
- Axes & Froes

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
- Considering the needs of each group as a whole on every occasion
- Providing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment as needed
- Demonstrating tools and how to use them safely to the children & young people
- Only using tools for an appropriate use
- Teaching children and young people how to use tools effectively and safely
- Only allowing staff that are competent and have undergone appropriate training to support children with tool use - e.g Level 3 Forest School or equivalent
- Enabling each practitioner to make their own decision about child ratios in accordance with their own experience and skills and of the learners.
- 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