

Forest School Health and Safety

The Health and Safety policy for Cambois Primary School covers the whole school including forest school. It sets out clear statements of intent and the responsibility of everyone in order to keep children, staff and visitors to the school and Forest School site safe. Below is a list of additional points and measures which relate directly to our Forest School sessions:

- The Forest School Leader is responsible for Forest School sessions including fire and tool use.
- Teachers and Lead Teaching Assistants are responsible for outdoor learning sessions in Forest School without fire and tool use. No fire or tools should be used unless the Forest School Leader is present.
- The Forest School Leader or teacher has an overall duty of care for the children in their session. However all adults involved in the Forest School session are required to take all reasonable steps to ensure that children are safe.
- Each session there will be a first aid kit taken on site.
- First aid will be given by qualified staff ONLY.
- First aid that cannot be dealt with outside will be dealt with indoors.
- In the event of an emergency, The Forest Leader or Teacher will ensure that the school office is notified. A school mobile phone will be taken outside to Forest School with a copy of the grid reference and what 3 words. The Forest School or Teacher will then contact the emergency services and notify the school office of this.
- Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly by the named Forest School Leader.
- When tools are used the adult child ratio will be 1:1 (reception) 1:2 (year 1/2) 1:5 (year 3/4/5/6). This will be reviewed depending on the needs of the children and individual risk assessments. No tools will be used without the presence of the Forest School Leader.
- Tools will be checked regularly to make sure they are fit for purpose by the Forest School Leader.
- The Forest School Leader is responsible for training the children in how to use the tools and equipment safely and appropriately.
- The Forest School Leader will be responsible for the overall safety of Forest School however a pre- visit check of the Forest School site prior to a Forest School session must be completed by the teacher leading that session. A checklist will be provided to all teaching staff to complete their pre-visit checklist. The Forest School leader will keep a record and document of all checks.
- Everyone entering the site needs to be wearing the appropriate footwear and clothing.
- If anyone is putting others at risk and not following health and safety guidance this may result in them being removed from the group.

Reviewed and updated: September 2026

