

Cambois Primary Forest School 2026-2027



DATE OF REVIEW/AMENDMENT: September 2026

This Forest School handbook will be reviewed annually by the Forest School Leader and updated where necessary to ensure that the information, procedures and expectations remain current, relevant and effective. The handbook may also be reviewed and amended throughout the year if there are significant changes to Forest School practice, guidance, risk assessments, equipment, the site or the needs of the children attending.

Any updates will be communicated to relevant staff and incorporated into Forest School practice to ensure that everyone is aware of and follows the most up-to-date procedures and expectations.



NAME	DATE	COMMENTS	SIGNED



CONSENT AND SIGNATURE PAGE

All adults (staff and visitors) sign to state that they have read school safeguarding policy, Forest School handbook and all risk assessments relating to Forest School.

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INTRODUCTION TO FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School originated in Scandinavia and has spread to the UK where many Forest School sites have opened up offering children of all abilities the opportunity to learn and flourish through the scheme. In 1993 a study trip took place visiting Denmark where they had an outdoor, forest school classroom. The study showed that the outdoor environment helped children to develop and showed that children having the outdoor experiences were ready to start school when the time came.

At Cambois Primary School we run our own Forest School which is situated on site. During our sessions children have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment and begin to have a greater understanding of the outdoor space. Our Forest School runs throughout all seasons no matter the weather; the only time that it wouldn't go ahead would be in high winds. Children will be learning a range of skills through the sessions whether it be identifying insects, plants and trees, using tools, lighting fires, playing games or even just enjoying being out in the natural environment.

Children benefit from the sessions outdoors as it has an impact on both mind and body, they have the freedom to move around and explore within a safe zone without the structure of the classroom.

The Forest School Association work on these 6 principles, which we incorporate into our sessions:

- **"Forest school is a long process of regular sessions, rather than a one off or infrequent visits, the cycle of planning, observation, adaptation and review link each session.**
- **Forest school takes place in a woodland or natural environment to support the development of the learner and the natural world.**
- **Forest school uses a range of learner centred processes to create a community for development and learning.**
- **Forest school aims to promote the holistic development of all those individuals involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.**
- **Forest school offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.**
- **Forest school is run by qualified Forest school practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice."**

www.forestschoollassociation.org

These principles are put into practice within our setting each session that we have out in Forest School. The class is based outside in the natural environment which is always a work in process where we are building small sections up, with the help from our children. Each session we have various activities so that the children can choose whichever one they want to join based on their interests. If they are wanting to explore the environment and choose something different then this is fine. This allows children to develop their skills and gain confidence within the secure woodland environment. We have risk assessments in place for various activities so that the task can be completed with reduced risks. Over time children can look at activities and assess the risks themselves which is a useful skill to have. Over time we want children to feel more confident in the outdoor environment as well as learn new skills which can be taken away and used throughout their life.



WHY DO WE DO FOREST SCHOOL?

We do Forest Schools because it has a lot of positive impacts on all participants. Throughout our sessions in Forest School we want to encourage a cutting edge approach to learning and inspire our children with positive outdoor experiences. We build our sessions on the child's interests so each session is child led; this means that children are interested in completing tasks as they come up with plans on what they want to create or do. Forest School allows children to learn about the natural environment, learning how to manage risks and how to work together to solve problems. Being outside and having these experiences build up children's self-confidence and self-esteem and they become self-motivated. Our vision for the children is to develop their personal and social skills through regular sessions and experiences. We want the children to be able to work through practical problems and challenges and learn how to manage failures, reflecting on their learning experiences. We want children to be more motivated by following their interests and exploring the natural environment. Through these experiences children will naturally develop language and communication skills but also develop their practical skills. There will be new opportunities where we will use tools to create and build various objects which allow for achievement and success. Children will explore the environment identifying different woodland species and learning about them through books and the internet.

FOREST SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

ENTERING

- We will enter the Forest School area calmly and safely, following the Forest School Leader or class teacher and taking care not to damage the natural environment.
- We understand that our outdoor space is also home to a variety of plants, insects, animals and other wildlife, and we have a responsibility to respect and protect their habitats.
- When we arrive at Forest School, we will go directly to the designated fire pit area unless the Forest School Leader/ teacher gives us different instructions.
- We will listen carefully to adults, follow the agreed Forest School rules and treat the site, plants, trees and wildlife with care and respect.
- We understand that we share our Forest School environment with many different living things. We will take care not to disturb wildlife unnecessarily, damage plants or leave rubbish behind. By looking after our Forest School area, we help to ensure that the plants and animals can continue to thrive and that everyone can enjoy and learn from this special outdoor environment.

BOUNDARIES/EXPECTATIONS

- We will revisit the rules of Forest School and our expectations when on the site.

FIRE

- The Forest School Leader will always have overall responsibility for fire lighting and fire safety during Forest School sessions. All adults involved in the session will be briefed on the fire safety procedures before any fire is lit and will understand their responsibilities for maintaining a safe environment.



- A lit fire must be supervised by an adult at all times and must never be left unattended. Fires will only be lit in the designated fire pit located in Forest School site. Before lighting a fire, the Forest School Leader will confirm that all necessary safety equipment is available and in place. This will include an adequate supply of water, fire gloves and a fully stocked first aid kit. No fire will be lit until these safety measures have been checked.
- A **1:1 adult-to-child ratio** will be maintained when children are actively involved in fire-lighting activities. Children will only enter the designated fire area when invited by an adult. Where responsibility has been appropriately passed to another child as part of the activity, children may only enter the area when invited by the child responsible and with adult supervision.
- Children may sit on the designated log stools around the fire circle. Children will be reminded to remain seated while in the fire circle unless instructed otherwise.
- If a child needs to move to a different position within the fire circle, they must first step outside the circle and walk around the outside before entering again at their new position. Children must never walk directly through the fire circle or between other children and the fire.
- The fire pit will always be treated as a potential hazard, even when no fire is currently burning. Children will be reminded that the fire pit must not be approached, touched or entered unless they have been specifically invited to do so by an adult. This expectation remains in place even when the fire has been fully extinguished.
- At the end of a fire activity, the Forest School Leader will ensure that the fire is fully extinguished and that the area is safe before children are allowed to move freely around the site. The fire area will continue to be monitored and treated with caution until it has been confirmed that it is completely safe.

DEN BUILDING

- Children will be supervised by an appropriate adult when taking part in den and shelter-building activities. Before beginning the activity, children will be reminded of the potential risks associated with handling and moving natural materials, including the possibility of logs, branches or sticks falling or becoming unstable.
- Children will be encouraged to select materials that are suitable for their age, size and physical ability. They must not attempt to lift, carry or move logs, branches or other materials that are too heavy or difficult for them to handle safely. Adults will provide support where necessary and will encourage children to work together safely when moving larger materials.
- Children will be taught to construct dens and shelters carefully and will be reminded that structures must not be climbed on or entered until they have been checked by an adult. The Forest School Leader or supervising adult will assess the completed structure to ensure that it is stable, secure and suitable for children to enter. If a structure is considered unsafe, children will not be permitted to enter it and the den will either be modified or dismantled.
- Children will also be encouraged to consider the location of their den carefully, ensuring that it does not interfere with wildlife habitats, plants, trees or other areas of environmental importance. Natural materials should be used responsibly, and dens should be dismantled after use unless there is a specific reason for them to remain in place.
- Weather conditions will be considered before and throughout every den-building activity. In extreme or unsuitable weather conditions, such as high winds, storms, heavy snowfall or other conditions that could increase the risk of falling branches or unstable structures. The Forest



School Leader will make the final decision as to whether den building is appropriate and safe to proceed. Activities will be adapted, postponed or cancelled where necessary to ensure the safety of all children and adults.

USING TOOLS

- Children will have the opportunity to use adult sized tools, all tools come with their own risk assessment. How and when the tools should be used will be considered, along with storage and maintenance. Tools are only to be used with the Forest School Leader present.

STICKS

- Children can carry sticks shorter than their arm's length but make sure they think about how close they are to other children. Longer sticks can be dragged or carried with a child at both ends. Sticks must not be thrown, nor should children be allowed to pull them from living trees.

EATING AND DRINKING

- Children are not to eat or drink anything found in the Forest School area (unless it has been planned to do so, e.g.: outdoor cooking). Children must be reminded not to put their fingers near their mouths, noses and ears.

TOILETING

- Children are to use the toilets before leaving the school building and entering the Forest School area for their session. If the children need the toilet during the session, they are to use the toilet block outdoors after alerting a member of staff first.

FOREST SCHOOL RULES

- At the beginning of each Forest School session, the children and adults are reminded of our Forest School rules and expectations. These rules have been developed together with the children and adults, ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to contribute and understands why each rule is important. By involving the children in creating the rules, they develop a greater sense of ownership and responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.
- The rules help to ensure that everyone can enjoy the Forest School environment safely and respectfully. They include expectations around staying within agreed boundaries, listening to adults, using tools and equipment safely, respecting nature and wildlife, and considering the feelings and personal space of others. The rules are revisited regularly and reinforced throughout the session where necessary, helping children to develop confidence, independence and an understanding of appropriate risk-taking. This consistent approach ensures that both children and adults have a clear understanding of what is expected and can work together to create a safe, positive and enjoyable Forest School experience.



ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

- When children are taking part in activities such as bug hunts around the Forest School site, they will be encouraged to handle all living creatures with care and respect. Any insects, bugs or other natural materials that are moved during an investigation should be returned to the exact area where they were found once the activity is finished. This helps to minimise disturbance to the habitats and ensures that the children understand the importance of caring for the natural environment.
- At the end of each session, we will ensure that the Forest School site is left clean and tidy. Any rubbish or waste will be collected and placed in the appropriate bin. All resources and materials that have been taken outside for activities will be returned to school or stored safely in the designated shed. This helps to keep the site safe and prevents materials from being damaged or becoming a hazard to children, staff or wildlife.
- When moving around the Forest School site, whether exploring, playing games or collecting natural materials, children and adults will remain on the designated short-grass paths wherever possible. Children will be reminded to watch where they are walking and to be aware of their surroundings. This helps to protect plants, habitats and wildlife while also reducing the risk of trips, slips or accidental damage to the environment.
- If children are involved in building dens, they will be encouraged to carefully consider where they construct them. Suitable areas will be identified to ensure that dens do not disturb animal habitats, plants or other areas of importance to wildlife. Dens should only be constructed using appropriate natural materials and must be dismantled at the end of the activity rather than being left standing for extended periods. This ensures that the area can continue to be used by wildlife and other groups.
- During cooking activities, fires will only be lit in the designated, secure fire area and will be supervised by an appropriate adult at all times. Children will be taught about fire safety and the importance of following instructions around the fire. The fire will be managed carefully to ensure that it remains under control and does not spread to surrounding grass, plants or other areas of the site. Once cooking has finished, the fire will be safely extinguished and the area checked to ensure there are no remaining hazards.
- Food and food waste will be carefully managed during cooking and snack activities. Any food that is dropped or left behind will be collected and placed in the appropriate bin. This is important to maintain good hygiene and to avoid attracting unwanted pests, such as rats, to the Forest School site.
- When collecting natural materials for activities, children will be encouraged to collect only materials that are already lying on the ground, such as fallen leaves, sticks, twigs and bark where appropriate. Children will be taught not to pull leaves, flowers, branches or other materials from living plants, as this can cause damage and negatively affect the growth and health of the plant. By following these expectations, children develop a greater understanding of their responsibility to care for and protect the natural environment.
- Through these routines and expectations, children are encouraged to develop respect for nature, understand the impact their actions can have on the environment and take an active role in looking after the Forest School site for themselves, others and the wildlife that lives there.



SESSIONS

At our Forest School, we aim to provide children with a wide range of engaging, practical and hands-on experiences that encourage them to become creative, confident and independent learners. Our activities are designed to provide opportunities for children to explore their own ideas, follow their interests and take on new challenges within a safe and supportive environment.

Forest School provides children with the freedom to learn through exploration, experimentation and play. Adults will support and encourage children without taking over, allowing them to develop their own ideas, make decisions, solve problems and learn from their experiences. Activities may be adapted to meet individual children's needs, interests, abilities and levels of confidence.

The activities and experiences we offer are planned to support children to:

- **Build personal and social skills**, including cooperation, communication, turn-taking, sharing, teamwork and developing positive relationships with others.
- **Develop independence and self-motivation** by allowing children to independently pursue and investigate areas of interest, make choices and take responsibility for their learning.
- **Learn how to manage failure and setbacks**, understanding that mistakes are a natural and valuable part of learning and developing perseverance and resilience.
- **Develop confidence in decision-making and evaluating risk**, giving children opportunities to assess situations, make informed choices and understand the consequences of their actions.
- **Develop practical skills**, including the use of tools and natural resources, while improving fine motor and gross motor skills through a range of physical and hands-on activities.
- **Develop language and oracy skills** through conversation, storytelling, questioning, describing, explaining, working collaboratively and sharing ideas and experiences.
- **Experience achievement and success**, helping children to recognise their own progress, celebrate their achievements and develop a positive attitude towards learning.

POSSIBLE FOREST SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

The activities offered will vary according to the season, weather, children's interests and the opportunities available within the Forest School environment. Possible activities include:

- Den and shelter building, encouraging problem-solving, teamwork and creativity.
- Using tools safely to create craft items and practical projects.
- Observing, identifying and studying wildlife and the natural environment.
- Craft activities using natural resources such as leaves, sticks, stones, bark and cones.
- Creating artwork and sculptures using natural and found materials.
- Team-building and group games that develop communication, cooperation and physical skills.
- Building wildlife homes, bug hotels and other habitats, alongside bug hunting and investigation.
- Stories, role play, drama and imaginative play inspired by the natural environment.
- Fire lighting, using a Kelly Kettle and cooking activities, with appropriate adult supervision and safety procedures.
- Sensory activities that encourage children to explore the natural environment using their senses.



- Rope and string work, including knot tying and activities that develop coordination, problem-solving and practical skills.

These activities are not intended to be completed as a fixed programme. Instead, they provide a range of opportunities that can be adapted and developed in response to the children's interests and ideas. This child-led approach allows children to take ownership of their learning while developing confidence, resilience, independence and a deeper connection with the natural world.

STAFF INVOLVED IN FOREST SCHOOL

During our forest school sessions there will be at least 2 members of staff on site, depending on the children's needs there may be more. In an emergency one member of staff will take the child/person into the building to perform first aid and get further assistance if required (If they are able to be moved). All staff have been subject to DBS checks. There will always be a trained first aider on site and a first aid bag will be taken out on each session so that minor injuries can be dealt with outside.

In each session the Forest School Leader will brief the staff that are assisting on what the plan is and where they are to support. The supporting staff should interact with the children if the children wish them to. If the staff have any ideas throughout the session or hear the children saying they would like to do something specific then staff should report to the Forest School Leader so that the specific request can be put in place.

Mrs Atkinson is the Forest School Leader/first aider. This role consists of being in charge of the session and giving jobs to the people that are supporting the group. Mrs Atkinson will also look at any risks within the Forest School site and plan the activities that will take place.

Staff are able to take children onto the Forest School site to provide learning opportunities, providing that they have completed a risk assessment of the site and completed the safety check list. **THEY ARE UNABLE TO COMPLETE HIGH RISK ACTIVITIES WITHOUT A QUALIFIED LEVEL 3 FOREST SCHOOL LEADER. Staff WILL NOT be able to have a fire or use tools without the Forest School Leader on site.**

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Safeguarding Children at Forest School is in line with Cambois Primary School's Safeguarding Policy. Cambois Primary School is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for children, staff and visitors and promoting a climate where children and adults will feel confident about sharing any concerns which they may have about their own safety or the well-being of others

- Every child has the right to be kept safe from danger and learn in a safe and secure environment
- All staff involved in Forest School hold relevant DBS checks
- All Forest School staff attend regular safeguarding training
- All concerns and disclosures are confidential and will only be shared with the school's designated safeguarding leaders and necessary agencies, if appropriate.

Our designated safeguarding leads within school are; Ashlyn Jackson, Laura Brown, Ruth Wheatley, Ryan Longstaff and Angela Charlton.



CONFIDENTIALITY

All Forest School staff and volunteers must adhere to the confidentiality policy.

MEDICAL

- All staff involved in Forest School sessions must be made aware of any relevant medical needs, conditions or individual requirements of the children attending.
- Staff should be familiar with the appropriate procedures and understand how each child's medical needs may affect their participation in Forest School activities.
- Any medication or medical equipment that a child may require during the session must be taken to the Forest School site and be readily accessible to the appropriate staff member. This may include prescribed medication, inhalers, emergency medication or other essential medical equipment identified within the child's individual healthcare plan.
- Before leaving for the Forest School area, staff will check that all required medication and medical equipment is present, in date and stored appropriately. Staff will ensure that medical equipment remains accessible throughout the session and is returned safely afterwards.
- Confidentiality will be maintained when sharing information about children's medical needs, while ensuring that all staff who need to know have sufficient information to respond appropriately in an emergency.

BEHAVIOUR

The behaviour of the children in Forest School is to be the same as the expectations within school.

Cambois will promote positive behaviours through role modelling, positive reinforcement, verbal praise and the opportunity for children to independently complete tasks.

Children's behaviours will be observed over time and if we feel that the behaviours are causing harm/risk to others then they may be removed from the session.

To be able to meet the aims we need to provide a positive environment that is safe for all users to explore and develop. We need to show children what is acceptable behaviour to the environment as well as to others around us. Children need to understand how to respect the environment, the wildlife and their habitats on site. Adults are to use praise throughout the session as this develops confidence and motivation. Children must listen carefully to all instructions given by adults as this is to keep them safe. Children need to show respect to everything in Forest School whether it be to others around them, the environment, the equipment being used on site and to the wildlife.



CLOTHING NEEDED FOR FOREST SCHOOL

We go outside in nearly all weathers so children must be prepared for this. We work on the principle “there is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing” Children may come home muddy, this shows that children have had fun in their learning. Clothing that will need to be in school for children to participate in forest school sessions are as follows:

- Waterproof trousers
- Waterproof coat
- Long sleeved top
- Full length trousers
- Wellies
- Warm socks and spare sets
- Gloves/hat
- Sun hat
- Sun cream
- Scarf

USING AND STORING TOOLS

When using tools and equipment during Forest School sessions, the safety of children and adults is always our priority. Appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be provided and must be worn according to the activity and the tool being used. Children will be supported to understand why PPE is necessary and how it helps to protect them from potential injury.

All tools and equipment are counted out before they are used and counted back in at the end of the activity. This ensures that all equipment is accounted for and prevents tools from being left around the site where they could become a hazard. When not in use, tools and equipment are stored securely in the designated locked storage area, which is not accessible to children without adult supervision.

All tools and equipment are checked regularly to ensure that they remain safe and in full working order. Any equipment that is damaged, faulty or considered unsafe will be removed from use immediately and stored separately until it can be repaired, replaced or safely disposed of. Regular checks help to reduce the risk of accidents and ensure that equipment remains suitable for use.

Before children are allowed to use any tool, they will take part in a **'tool talk'**. During the tool talk, an adult will demonstrate how the tool should be carried, held, used and stored safely. Children will be given clear instructions about the potential risks associated with the tool and the behaviour expected while using it. Children will only use tools that are appropriate for their age, ability and level of understanding.

Children are always supervised when using tools, with the level of supervision appropriate to the activity and the potential risks involved. Adults will remain attentive and intervene where necessary to ensure that tools are being used safely and correctly. Children will also be reminded that tools are only to be used for their intended purpose and that they must follow adult instructions at all times.



At the beginning of every Forest School session, children are reminded of our site rules and the expected standards of behaviour. Particular emphasis is placed on safe behaviour when tools are being used. Children are reminded to listen carefully, maintain appropriate personal space, carry tools safely and never use or touch equipment without permission. These expectations help to ensure that everyone can take part in Forest School activities in a safe and positive environment.

We also operate a **'nil by mouth'** policy while on the Forest School site. Children are reminded that they must not put natural materials, soil, leaves, berries, insects or any other items found on the site into their mouths. Food and drink will only be consumed when specifically planned as part of an appropriate activity, such as a cooking session. During cooking activities, children will be reminded of the importance of good hygiene, including washing or cleaning their hands before handling food and following the instructions given by adults.

By maintaining these clear procedures, children are able to develop confidence and independence when using tools and equipment while also developing an understanding of responsibility, safe risk-taking and respect for themselves, others and the Forest School environment.

RISKS IN FOREST SCHOOL

To keep everyone safe, a site risk assessment is undertaken regularly and a daily risk assessment and check is made prior to each Forest School session. In order to complete the risk assessments, we firstly look for potential hazards, we then decide who the hazard could harm, we then think about the worst possible outcome and finally we decide how we can reduce the risk but still allow the activity to take place. What we look for is: do the benefits outweigh the risks? Most of the time the answer is yes, the benefits they gain from a task is greater than the risk. The children have time, freedom and space to learn and grow whilst in the outdoor environment, they develop in all areas. Children work together to solve problems and explore so this builds up their social skills which also benefit the child's language and communication. By being outside in the open environment children have motivation which benefits their health and wellbeing. Each session children begin to gather the knowledge and understanding of the outdoor world and see things from a new perspective which can be used for future reference. By using tools children develop their fine and gross motor skills, their coordination improves which leads to a boost in their confidence. The activities that take place on site that carry a hazard are:

- Tree climbing
- Using ropes and strings
- Carrying materials
- Digging
- Using tools
- Fire circle
- Walking on site
- Building dens

All hazards are considered and risk assessments are put in place so the risk is reduced. This means that the activity can still go ahead but with controlled measures.



BOUNDARIES

During the first Forest School session, the Forest School rules and expectations are developed together by the Forest School Leader and the children. This gives children the opportunity to contribute their ideas, understand why the rules are necessary and take ownership of the expectations that have been agreed. The rules are discussed in an age-appropriate way, with particular emphasis placed on keeping everyone safe, respecting others and caring for the Forest School environment.

The agreed rules are revisited at the beginning of every Forest School session. This provides children with a regular reminder of their responsibilities and reinforces the agreement they have made with the Forest School Leader. Revisiting the rules also provides an opportunity to discuss any issues that may have arisen during previous sessions and to remind children of the behaviours expected when participating in Forest School activities.

The Forest School site is secure and fully fenced, providing a clearly defined area for children to explore, learn and play. Children are expected to remain within the fenced Forest School area at all times and must not leave the designated site unless accompanied and directed by an appropriate adult. Clear boundaries will be explained to children and reinforced regularly so that they understand where they can safely explore.

Adults supervising the session will remain aware of the location of all children and will monitor the site boundaries throughout the session. Children will be encouraged to explore and develop independence within these agreed boundaries while understanding the importance of following safety instructions. These consistent expectations help to create a safe and secure environment where children can confidently engage in Forest School activities.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES AND INCLUSION

Cambois Primary School is an inclusive environment where every child is welcomed, valued and encouraged to participate. No child should feel excluded from Forest School activities, and we will consider the individual needs, abilities, interests and circumstances of every child when planning and delivering sessions.

Forest School activities will be planned with flexibility so that all children can access and enjoy the experiences on offer. Where necessary, activities, resources, equipment or the environment will be adapted to remove barriers to participation and enable every child to be involved. We recognise that children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates, so a range of teaching approaches, activities and learning opportunities will be provided to support individual learning needs.

Children will be encouraged to participate at a level that is appropriate for them, with adults providing support and guidance where required while also promoting independence. We will celebrate individual achievements and recognise that success can look different for every child.

By providing an inclusive and supportive Forest School environment, we aim to ensure that every child has opportunities to experience achievement, develop confidence and build positive relationships.



These successful experiences can encourage children to become more motivated, resilient and confident learners, supporting their continued personal, social and educational development.

ACCIDENTS OR INJURIES ON SITE

All accidents or injuries will be recorded on CPOMS giving in depth details of:

- Who was injured
- Where
- When
- Time of incident
- What happened
- Who witnessed this
- What was the injury
- What first aid was given

There will also be an accident form filled out for the children to bring home to parents/carers and the parents/carers will also be informed of any injury either on collection or by phone for a head injury.

POLICIES

All of the following schools policies are appropriate for our Forest School sessions:

- Equality and diversity policy
- Health and Safety policy
- Play policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Behaviour policy

All of Forest School information is placed on our school website so it can be accessed by families and staff to read. All of the information will be updated as and when needed.

CANCELLED SESSIONS

Forest School sessions will normally take place in a range of weather conditions, as experiencing and learning in different weather is an important part of the Forest School experience. However, the safety and wellbeing of children and staff will always take priority. A session may be cancelled, postponed or moved indoors if the weather conditions or the Forest School site are considered unsafe.

Sessions will only be cancelled due to school closure, thunderstorms, extreme cold, high winds or other severe weather conditions, or when the Forest School Leader determines that it is not safe to proceed.



The Forest School Leader will monitor the weather forecast on the morning of each Forest School session and make an informed decision about whether the session can safely take place.

Particular consideration will be given when the **Met Office issues a yellow weather warning for wind or storms**, or where wind speeds or gusts are **above Force 6 on the Beaufort scale**. Other factors, such as falling branches, waterlogged or icy ground, poor visibility, extreme temperatures or other hazards caused by the weather, will also be considered as part of the decision-making process.

If a session is cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, children will remain in their classrooms and follow their normal school arrangements.

Mrs Atkinson will inform the class teacher at least 30 minutes before the session is due to begin, where possible, so that alternative arrangements can be made and the class can remain indoors.

Weather conditions will also be monitored throughout the session. If conditions deteriorate or an unexpected weather hazard develops, the Forest School Leader will reassess the situation and may shorten or end the session. If it is no longer considered safe to continue, children will be returned to their classrooms promptly and safely.

The final decision regarding whether a Forest School session can proceed will always rest with the Forest School Leader, based on the current conditions, available information and the safety of all children and adults.

Beaufort Scale	Description	What you see	Wind speed (mph)
0	Calm	Smoke rises straight	less than 1
1	Light air	Wind direction shown by smoke drift but not weather vane	1-3
2	Light breeze	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle and vane moves	4-7
3	Gentle breeze	Leaves and small twigs steadily move; wind extends small flags straight out	8-12
4	Moderate breeze	Wind raises dust; small branches move	13-18
5	Fresh breeze	Small trees sway; waves form on water	19-24
6	Strong breeze	Large branches move; wires whistle; umbrellas difficult to use	25-31
7	Moderate gale	Whole trees in motion; walking against wind difficult	32-38
8	Fresh gale	Twigs break from trees; walking against wind difficult	39-46
9	Strong gale	Buildings suffer damage	47-54
10	Gale force	Trees uprooted	55-63
11	Violent storm	Widespread damage	64-72
12	Hurricane	Widespread destruction	73+

