

Health and Safety Policy

Date of Policy – 1 January 2026

Author of current policy – Justine Goodwin

1) Wessex Forest School will establish and maintain a safe and healthy environment during sessions by:

- * Establishing, maintaining, and evaluating appropriate procedures, policies, and risk benefit assessments.
- * Ensuring the provision of sufficient information and instruction for all supervising adults so they can contribute to their own health and safety and that of the children they are working with or responsible for.
- * Establishing and being familiar with, all emergency procedures including the reporting and recording of incidents.
- * Ensuring the Forest School leader is first aid trained as well as accessing the first aid staff within the school in emergencies. Record any accidents appropriately.
- * Investigating any accidents and use information gathered to inform future risk assessments and policy reviews.
- * Ensuring all equipment is in good working order and used appropriately.
- * Ensuring the safety of the children throughout their session.
- * Maintaining the first aid kit, and any tools brought into the session.
- * Carrying out risk assessments and benefits of the forest school location and activities, sharing all information with the other adults.
- * Ensuring all forest school policies are regularly reviewed and that reviews are informed by observations and developing knowledge of the forest school setting.
- * Following the forest school principles and criteria for good practice set out by www.forestschoollassociation.org

2) Session procedure

- * Ensure all staff are familiar with the content of the session and their responsibilities.
- * Do pre check of the site to identify any dangerous plants, broken branches, or other potential hazards. Address the issues or mark them with hazard tape for later.
- * Count children into the site and conduct regular head counts throughout the session.
- * Recap forest school rules of kind hands, not leaving the boundary without

permission, no pick no lick and always return to base on whistle or call.

- * Ensure all instructions clearly state the boundary for the activity.
- * Explain rules for carrying sticks, tool use and fire safety if necessary for session.
- * If children explore a hidden area ensure an adult always has sight of them, without influencing their play.

3) Responsibilities of accompanying staff and forest school volunteers

- * To take an active role in forest school activities and assist with any behavioural issues within the group.
- * Be vigilant to ensure the health and safety requirements are met.
- * Inform the forest school leader of any problems that occur as soon as possible.

4) Responsibilities of accompanying carers

- * Pre-school carers are expected to play an active role in forest school activities and assist with any behavioural issues with their child. They are also expected to organise visits to the toilet and any sanitary or clothing changes required by their child.
- * Home school carers are expected to assist with any behavioural issues with their child and organise any clothing changes required by their child.