



Forest School Policy

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What is a Forest School?

- Forest School is an idea that originated in Scandinavia. Children are encouraged to use their local woodland area to explore nature and their natural environment.
- Forest School aims to develop children's well-being, creativity confidence, self-esteem and independence through exciting and challenging hands on experiences.
- Sessions are led by a Qualified Level 3 Forest School Practitioner and are flexible allowing children to explore their own ideas and interests in the natural world.

How often will children at Cantrell take part in Forest School sessions?

At Cantrell Primary School we are very fortunate to have our own woodland area situated within the school grounds. During a school year children will visit the woodland once a week for 6 weeks with each session lasting for 2 hours. Children may wish to participate in den building, collecting and identifying natural objects and exploring the environment and wildlife. They will be encouraged to work as a group, join in social games, having memorable experiences and lots of fun!

Purpose/Aims of Forest School sessions

- ✓ Co-operate with others, negotiate and work on challenges together.
- ✓ Develop their speaking and listening skills.
- ✓ Develop an understanding and respect for the environment and nature.
- ✓ Be positive about themselves and what they can achieve.
- ✓ Develop their imagination and creativity.
- ✓ Develop a love of nature and being outside in the woodland.

Existing School Policies

All Staff assisting in Forest School sessions will be familiar with the following Cantrell School Policies. These are all available on the School Website.

- Safeguarding Policy
- Equality and Inclusion
- First Aid Policy
- SEND Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying
- Risk Assessments specific to Forest School sessions

Health and Safety

All Forest School sessions will be planned and delivered by a Qualified Level 3 Forest School Practitioner. The Health and Safety of all children, staff and any other adults attending will be discussed at the beginning of each Forest School session. Identifying benefits against risks involved in any of the outdoor pursuits including; climbing trees, use of tools and fire.

The Forest School Practitioner is responsible for surveying the site for hazards before the session and will take control of any emergencies and all staff are to follow the Emergency Action Plan which will be located in the top of the Happy Bag.

The Forest School Practitioner will have an up-to-date ITC Outdoor First Aid Certificate and is in charge of First Aid arrangements. In the case of an accident requiring further assistance, Emergency Services and the School Office will be contacted. The School Office will contact parents.

A mobile phone will be kept with the Forest School Practitioner at all times with emergency contact numbers for the School Office and Head teacher.

All Medical Details and Emergency contact details are kept in the School Office.

Minor injuries will be treated as they would within the school, recorded and reported to parents. The Forest School Practitioner will administer First Aid and monitor the casualty until they are ready to re-join the group.

Emergency Action Plan – to be kept in the top of the Happy Bag.

Emergency Action Plan

In the event of an emergency where a child needs to go to hospital:

- The Forest School Practitioner will administer First Aid
- A member of staff/adult will phone an ambulance giving details of the emergency and location. They will then contact the School Office.
- The School Office will contact the child's parents.
- The Forest School Practitioner and another adult/staff member will stay with the injured child at all times.
- The other staff members/adults will gather the rest of the class, reassure them and return them to school.

In the event of an emergency where an adult needs to go to hospital:

- The Forest School Practitioner will administer First Aid
- A member of staff/adult will phone an ambulance giving details of the emergency and location. They will then contact the School Office.
- The Forest School Practitioner and another adult/staff member will stay with the casualty at all times.
- The other staff members/adults will gather the rest of the class, reassure them and return them to school.

In the event of the Forest School Practitioner needing emergency assistance:

- A member of staff will administer First Aid and stay with Practitioner.
- Another member of staff/adult will phone an ambulance giving details of the emergency and location. They will then contact the School Office.
- The other staff members/adults will gather the rest of the class, reassure them and return them to school.

Emergency Services 999

School Office 0115 9155770

Location of Forest School Site:

Cantrell Primary School, Cantrell Road, Bulwell, Nottingham NG6 9HJ