



Forest School

Health and Safety Policy

REVIEW: SPRING 2024

Chase View Primary School: Forest School Health and Safety Policy

One of the main principles of Forest School is to offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.

Children will be encouraged to experience new things and learn new skills whilst fostering resilience and becoming independent in their learning. These new challenges bring with them risks but these will be managed and carefully weighed up as part of the risk benefit assessment of any activity.

The overall completion and compliance to the FS risk assessments lies with the FS leader. However, risks and possible health and safety issues will be shared with the supporting adults as well as the children as part of learning about managed risk in the outdoor environment. Learners then take responsibility, under the supervision of the FS adults, for their own and others safety.

Specific roles in adhering to the Health and Safety policy are:

Head Teacher must:

- Follow LEA guidance on outdoor activities
- Maintain appropriate insurance cover
- Assess the risks of all activities
- Be aware of the FS procedures
- Have child protection procedures in place
- Ensure all risk assessments have been checked
- Check the adult/child ratio is adhered to
- Check the FS leader is competent to lead each session
- Check all first aid requirements and insurances are in place
- Check all staff and adult helpers are DBS checked

Forest School Leader must:

- Have in place and adhere to all FS risk assessments, policies and procedures to ensure risks are controlled.
- Have child protection procedures in place
- Check the adult/child ratio is adhered to
- Check parents have signed medical and consent forms
- Check any special requirements for SEN children are in place
- Check emergency contacts are up to date
- Check all staff and adult helpers are DBS checked
- Promote safe and positive behaviour
- Ensure their first aid certificate is up to date
- Ensure staff and volunteers are correctly briefed before each session, they are aware of the FS ethos and are made aware of the relevant FS risk assessments, policies and procedures
- Ensure that supporting adults follow the instructions of the FS leader at all times, to report any concerns to the FS leader immediately and they are to follow the Health and Safety requirements.

Children are to:

- Follow the instructions of the FS leader at all times
- Tell an adult of any dangers or threats to themselves or others
- Have the appropriate clothing/footwear in school ready
- Be involved in the FS daily risk assessment and safety talks to be more involved in managing risk and keeping themselves and others safe.

Parents/carers are to:

- Provide the FS leader with medical/dietary information
- Provide emergency contacts
- Sign consent forms
- Equip their children with the correct clothing and footwear for the session