



# Forest School

Risk management and Assessment

REVIEW: SPRING 2024

## Chase View Primary School: Forest School Risk Management and Assessment Policy and Procedures

The Forest School leader is responsible for the health and safety of the learners taking part in Forest School. However, supporting adults are required to take reasonable steps to ensure the children are safe and the children are encouraged to be risk aware to encourage them to be responsible for their own and others health and wellbeing.

Chase View Primary School has the relevant insurance cover to run Forest Schools (see insurance certificate) and has ensured the FS leader has an up to date Outdoor First Aid First Aid qualification and supporting adults hold a valid First Aid certificate.

### **Procedures for risk management and assessment:**

#### **Prior to the session:**

- The lesson activities, relevant risk assessments and any medical/SEN needs of the children are shared with the supporting adults.
- The daily site risk assessment will be carried out by the FS leader and any possible risks will be shared and highlighted to supporting adults and the children, or managed to minimise risk where needed.
- The weather will be assessed to ensure high winds or thunder and lightening will not pose a risk.
- The children and adults will be checked that clothing and footwear comply with the Forest School Clothing policy.
- Children will be toileted before leaving the school.
- Tools or equipment that will be used in the session activities are checked they are safe to use.
- Any medication/inhalers needed by the children are checked and consent forms/dosage are shared with

supporting adults and both securely held by the FS leader.

- School walkie-talkie, FS leader's mobile phone and the FS first aid kit is checked and their whereabouts shared with the supporting adults.
- Fire safety kit is checked and on site if needed.

### **During the session:**

- Any potential hazards, risks and tool safety talks happen before an activity starts. Children are involved in risk awareness and the need for safety of themselves and others at all times.
- Correct adult:child ratios for tool, equipment and fire use are adhered to at all times.
- Relevant risk assessments for specific tools, equipment and fire use are followed at all times.
- If an activity is adapted during the session, the FS leader will risk assess appropriately.
- All general Forest School policies and procedures are followed and managed by the FS leader at all times.
- Regular head counts of the children.

### **End of session:**

- Any incidents/accidents have been logged in the incident book and the Headteacher and parents/carers informed where appropriate.
- Any feedback needed to be given to the child's usual class teacher (behaviour, first aid administered etc) will be given when returned to school.
- End of session daily procedure followed.