

# Curry Rivel Church of England Primary School



## FOREST SCHOOL POLICY

Agreed by Full Governors October 2020  
Review October 2022

NB: This policy was reviewed during the COVID pandemic and needs to be read alongside the latest DfE and other relevant guidance.

### 1. Purpose and Aims of Forest School

- To provide an experience and opportunity that encourages awareness, appreciation and knowledge of the natural environment.
- To learn and respect the natural environment
- To work both within a group or independently respecting the views and ideas of others
- To develop self-esteem, independence and imagination whilst taking risks within a set boundaries.

### 2. The role of the Forest School Leader

- Will carry out a detailed safety check of the area before each session which complies with the Health and Safety risk assessment.
- Will carry emergency pack at all times including medicine, first aid kit etc.
- Is responsible for all the equipment that is out within each session and ensure that is it put back in its correct place at the end of each session.
- Is responsible for the safety of all the children over at Forest school.
- Will record accidents on setting forms any accidents or incidents that occur during a session e.g. Trips, stings etc.
- Will have an up to date First aid certificate.
- Will plan and deliver sessions around the curriculum/EYFS
- Will maintain a safe environment to maximise the outdoor learning experience.

### 3. Health and Safety Policy

#### **Procedure:**

- Forest school sessions will be run on site at Curry Rivel Primary School
- A weekly site risk assessment will be carried out prior to each session
- Risk assessments are written using EEC Live and are shared with ALL staff (Leaders and support staff).
- The weather will be assessed prior to each session by The Forest School Leader. If it's extremely cold or windy and deemed unsafe the session will be cancelled or if the weather turns during a session the session will be cut short.
- If the stream is at a high capacity and flowing fast (the Head teacher/Nurse Manager will assess) Forest School will not take place.
- Appropriate clothing should be worn, e.g. waterproof trousers, coat, hat, gloves. Parents will be notified before Forest school sessions on what clothing they should provide.
- Children will wash their hands immediately after each session.
- The Forest school Lead should have a walkie talkie on them at all times whilst at Forest School.

#### **In Case of an injury:**

- The Forest school leader and/or their support staff should have a First aid certificate and be in charge of the first aid arrangements
- The first aid kit is to be kept in the Forest School Shed ready for all sessions.
- In case of an accident and further assistance required, the Forest School lead should use the walkie talkie to ask for help.

#### **During a Forest school Session:**

- Before coming to Forest school a register will be taken and a regular headcount should be done when over at Forest School.
- Identify the boundaries at the start of each Forest School sessions along with the health and safety rules as outlined in the risks assessments.
- Use the '1,2,3, where are you?' call and response if you cannot see a child at times whilst at Forest School. This should be taught within the first session.

#### **Lighting a fire:**

- The Forest School lead is the only person allowed to light a fire and will take control of this.
- A lit fire will not be left unattended at any point
- A fire may not be lit until the safety equipment is in place
- All open fire's will be lit within the 'Fire Circle', children are not allowed within the 'Fire Circle'

### **Picking up and playing with sticks:**

- Children can carry sticks shorter than their arms lengths but should think about children around them. Longer sticks can be dragged or carried with the help of another person so there is one person either end.
- Sticks must not be thrown
- Sticks must not be pulled from living trees.

### **Carrying and Transporting of Natural Materials:**

- Children are encouraged to roll, lift, drag and to pull materials either by using their hands or using rope.
- Safe lifting is encouraged by bending our knees and keeping our backs straight, this should be modelled by adults.
- Heavier objects should be rolled, lifted or carried by more people working together.

#### 4. Travelling to and from the site

- The site for Forest school is on the grounds of the Primary school. The school aged children will access the site from the back gate by the school field and the Nursery children will access it from the gate and over the bridge in the Little Pips garden.

#### 5. Safeguarding policy

- Whilst at Forest school we are expected to safeguard the children as we would within the school and nursery site. Please refer to the School's and Nursery's safeguarding policies which can be found on the website and a hard copy found within the office .

#### 6. Missing child policy

- As previously said regular headcounts will be taken whilst at the Forest School site.
- Boundaries are set in place to ensure children aren't leaving the site and are always in view, however if they cannot be seen we will do the '1,2,3 where are you?' call and response.
- For other information about the missing child policy please see the Nurseries and schools separate policy, which can be found on the website and a hard copy found within the office.

#### 7. Confidentiality policy

For information on Confidentiality please see the schools and nurseries policies which can be found on the website and a hard copy within the office.

#### 8. Behaviour Management Policy

For all information regarding how we deal with behaviour management please see the policies the school and nursery have in place. These can be found on the website or a hard copy within the office.

### 9. Equality and inclusion policy

For all information regarding how we deal with equality and inclusion please see the policies the school and nursery have in place. These can be found on the website or a hard copy within the office.

### 10. Children with Special Needs (SEND) policy:

For all information regarding how we deal with Children with special needs (SEND) please see the policies the school and nursery have in place. These can be found on the website or a hard copy within the office.

### 11. Learning outside the Classroom Policy:

For the purpose of the Forest School sessions the following will apply:

- To celebrate our outdoor area and the learning that can happen within it.
- For all children to develop skills and independence in a wide range of environments
- For all children to develop their curiosity and understanding of the world.
- To provide a safe and stimulating environment where the space is effectively used and enables children to explore a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To raise awareness of environmental issues and encourage children to care for the environment.
- Children are supported in taking risk within a safe and secure environment.
- Children are provided with a range of experiences that help develop key life skills.
- Children have the opportunity to engage with imaginative, investigative and creative play using the outdoors.
- All pupils receive a wide range of opportunities to develop socially and emotionally as well as academically through outdoor learning and play.

### 12. Weather Policy

- If the weather is extremely windy it is advisable not to hold the Forest School session in the area due to falling branches and trees on site, However the session could be held on a wider open space such as a playing field.
- If the Weather deteriorates during the Forest school session and the Forest School Leader deems it unsafe to remain in the woodland, the session will either be postponed or moved into a classroom if possible.
- If there is/has been heavy rain, the stream could be flowing with high capacity/fast flowing. Forest School cannot take place.