



# Health and Safety Policy – Forest School

**Policy Code: FS-HS-001**

**Policy Name: Health and Safety Policy – Forest School**

**Version: 1.0**

**Effective Date: 24.03.2026**

**Review Date: Annually or following significant change/incident**

## Statement of Intent

**Nurture & Grow Forest & Play** is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of all children, staff, visitors and volunteers within our Forest School provision.

We provide a safe, secure and well-managed outdoor learning environment where children can explore, take managed risks and develop confidently, whilst being protected from serious harm.

## We comply with:

- EYFS Statutory Framework
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- RIDDOR
- COSHH Regulations
- HSE guidance

## 1. Aims and Objectives

### We aim to:

- Maintain a safe outdoor learning environment
- Identify and manage risks effectively
- Ensure appropriate supervision at all times
- Promote safe practices and behaviours
- Ensure all staff understand their responsibilities

## 2. Responsibilities

### Registered Provider / Director

- Holds overall responsibility for health and safety



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- Ensures policies are implemented and reviewed
- Ensures adequate staffing, training and resources

## Forest School Leader

- Leads sessions and ensures safe delivery of activities
- Completes and reviews risk assessments
- Ensures staff are deployed effectively
- Maintains first aid qualifications

## Staff and Volunteers

- Follow health and safety procedures
- Supervise children appropriately
- Report hazards or concerns immediately
- Model safe behaviour

## 3. Forest School Environment

**We recognise that outdoor environments present additional risks, including:**

- Uneven terrain
- Trees and natural obstacles
- Weather conditions
- Water, mud and natural materials

**These are managed through:**

- Site risk assessments
- Clear boundaries and safety zones
- Staff positioning and supervision
- Ongoing dynamic risk assessment



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## 4. Risk Assessment

We use a combination of:

- Full site risk assessments
- Activity risk assessments
- Dynamic risk assessment during sessions

Risk assessments consider:

- Environment
- Activities (tools, fire, climbing)
- Equipment
- Individual children's needs

Risk assessments are reviewed:

- Before sessions
- After incidents
- Following environmental changes

## 5. Supervision

- Children are supervised at all times
- Staff are deployed to cover all areas of the site
- Staff are positioned to maintain sight or sound of all children at all times
- Ratios are maintained in line with EYFS
- Higher-risk activities receive increased supervision

## 6. First Aid and Medical

- At least one Paediatric First Aid trained member of staff is present at all times
- A fully stocked outdoor first aid kit is available
- Medical information is accessible to staff
- All accidents and incidents are recorded



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## 7. Emergency Procedures

We have clear procedures for:

- Serious injury or illness
- Fire
- Missing child
- Severe weather

In an emergency:

- Staff will ensure children are moved to a safe area
- Emergency services will be contacted where required
- Parents will be informed as soon as possible

On Site Communication methods include:

- Whistles
- Walkie talkies
- Howler System

## 8. Equipment and Tools

- All equipment is checked before use
- Tools are introduced with clear safety instructions
- Tools are used under direct supervision
- PPE is used where appropriate

## 9. Clothing and Personal Equipment

Children must be appropriately dressed for outdoor conditions, including:

- Waterproof clothing
- Suitable footwear
- Warm layers or sun protection as required

**The setting will support families where clothing may be a barrier.**



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## 10. Hygiene and Infection Control

- Handwashing facilities or alternatives are provided
- Gloves and PPE are used where required
- Procedures are in place for managing illness and infection

## 11. Food Safety and Allergies

- Allergies are recorded and managed safely
- Food preparation follows hygiene standards
- No nut products are used where required

## 12. Safeguarding Link

**Health and safety is closely linked to safeguarding.**

- All staff follow safeguarding procedures
- Concerns are reported to the DSL
- Children's welfare is always the priority

## 13. Recording and Monitoring

- Accidents, incidents and near misses are recorded
- Patterns are reviewed to improve safety
- Risk assessments are updated accordingly

## 14. Training

**Staff receive training in:**

- Paediatric First Aid
- Safeguarding
- Risk assessment
- Fire safety



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- Manual handling
- Food hygiene (where applicable)

### 15. Visitors and Contractors

- All visitors are supervised
- Identity is verified
- Contractors must follow safety procedures

### 16. No Smoking / Vaping

**Smoking and vaping are not permitted on site.**

### 17. Policy Review

**This policy will be reviewed annually or following:**

- An incident
- Changes to legislation
- Changes to site or operations

**Signed:**

**Name: Tracey Doidge**

**Role: Director / Registered Provider**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**