

## NHPS Forest School Code of Conduct

At BLPS Forest School we have a code of conduct which covers some really important rules we need to follow to keep us, each other, and our environment safe.

### Forest School Rules

- **Look after yourself**
- **Look after one another**
- **Look after our forest school environment**

### Entering the Pocket Park

We will enter Forest School respectfully and know that Forest School specific expectations are in place. We will explore, investigate, learn and play in a manner that will not damage our Forest School environment. We understand that we share our Forest School with plants and animals and that when we are in our Forest School, we are sharing the environment with them.

### Boundaries

When groups arrive at the Forest School site, boundaries are created together by marking using natural/existing boundaries such as fences or green barriers and by playing games. Keeping within the boundaries is essential when attending sessions as only the area within the boundaries has been deemed safe to explore and to take risks.

### Respect for Nature

We will be learning about our environment and how we, as humans, impact upon it and can help to create a sense for sustainability and increase respect for all living things. At Forest School children are encouraged not to pick too many living plants and to be made aware of plants that may cause harm, such as nettles and lords & ladies.

### Lighting a Fire & Respecting the Fire Circle

When lighting a fire, the Forest School leader will take control of the operation. A lit fire will not be left unattended at any point. A fire may not be lit until it has been confirmed to all that our fire safety equipment is in place. Any fire will always be safely extinguished by the Forest School Leader. Nobody is to enter the fire circle without being invited in by the Forest School Leader and there is a strict no walking through the fire circle rule.

When we have a fire, there will be two circles around it. The outer one is made of seats to sit on around the fire. The inner circle is the "Fire Guardian", a boundary never to be crossed as it is in place to keep the children safe. All adults and children must never walk through the fire circle, but rather walk around it. If they do go inside the outer circle, they must be invited in and can only enter by walking.

## Using Tools

Safe use of tools is practised at Forest School and participants can only use tools when supervised 1:3 by the Forest School Leader. Within the session children will find out about the potential of tools and how useful they can be but also how dangerous they can be when used incorrectly.

## Sticks

Children can carry sticks but make sure they think about how close they are to other children. Long sticks should be transported like a wizard's staff to keep them from unintentionally (or otherwise!) poking other children. Longer sticks can be dragged or carried with a child at both ends. Sticks must not be thrown, nor should children be allowed to pull them from living trees.

## Eating & Drinking

There is a no eating policy for anything found in the area unless this activity has been specifically planned for during the session. When having drinks and snacks children will use hand sanitizer or water to clean their hands before consumption.

## Carrying & Transporting Materials

Children are encouraged to roll, lift, drag and to pull materials, either by using their hands or by using ropes. We encourage safe lifting by bending our knees and keeping our backs straight. Safe lifting should always be modelled by adults. Heavier objects should be rolled, lifted or carried by more children working together.

## Toileting

Children will be encouraged to use the toilet before the session however they will be allowed to return to the school building with an accompanying adult. The nearest toilets are in the Reception and Year 1 areas.

## Tree Climbing

During the initial site sweep, the ground should be checked for sharp objects and a visual check should be made for loose or rotten branches. The children also need to be taught how to look for risk and weigh up the risk/benefit before climbing the trees. Children should only climb to a height that they are able to get themselves down from. They should not be lifted down from trees but rather taught how to solve the problem and get down safely from the tree themselves.

## Leaving the Site

Forest school sessions will always have an impact on the environment however human trace is minimised by removing equipment, rubbish and anything we have created as we leave. Indeed, forest school sites are often enhanced by our presence – for example, once-inaccessible areas are cleared of impenetrable scrub, coppicing practices may resume, bug hotels are installed, and rubbish is removed. However, the overall ethos we work to is 'leave no trace'.

