

## TRPS Forest School Code of Conduct

At TRPS 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

- Be kind to yourself
- Be kind to one another
- Be kind to nature

### Entering the site

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 in place using natural/existing boundaries such as fences or green barriers. 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, mushrooms and berries.

### 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. We may, on occasion, have drinks and snacks and the 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 KS1 area but we occasionally have access to the changing room toilets also.

## 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'.**