

Fire Safety Policy



Staff and volunteers as well as any visitors will ensure that participants of sessions at Forest School at Harrow Gate are made aware of fire safety and fire emergency procedures which affect them.

The Forest School team at Harrow Gate will regularly review existing fire safety procedures to ensure they not only reflect accepted best practice in the forest school sector but that the lessons learned from any accidents have been taken on board.

Fire poses a threat to life through fumes, smoke, burns, scalds and equipment destruction. The aim of the fire safety policy is to minimise the risk of fire or fire related incident by taking adequate fire precautions.

Fire prevention measures focus upon the removal or control of available fuel and ignition sources. Fuel includes waste, debris, flammable gases, liquids and materials.

Waste materials must not be allowed to accumulate in and around the Forest School at Harrow Gate area. Waste bags are provided and must be utilised to keep the operating area clear and safe. No flammable liquids will be stored on site. Any used will be in full accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and removed after the session ends. Gas cylinders if used will be kept away from any sources of naked flame such as the fire circle. All gas cylinders will operate using the correct hoses, regulators and adaptors. These will be routinely checked and replaced as required as part of the standard operating procedure for equipment checks.

Participants at Forest School at Harrow Gate sessions are supervised when using the fire bowl or fire area which is regularly maintained and checked. Fire safe gloves will always be provided for anyone working with a fire.

Any form of smoking or vaping is prohibited at all times within the school grounds. Cigarette lighters and matches are not to be left lying around or left in an accessible state to participants. Participants may only have access to cigarette lighters, matches, fire starters and other fire lighting equipment under the supervision of a member of staff.

Only designated sites will be used for campfires. These sites will always be sited away from low canopy branches. Campfire areas will be enclosed by logs to make a Fire Pit to prevent the spread and are surrounded by seating logs at least 1.5 metres from the fire pit. Exit paths are available at each corner.

When the campfire is in use, participants are not permitted to access the area immediately surrounding the fire without permission. Participants will be taught how to change seats by standing, stepping over the log and then walking around the outside of the seating area. They must never cross the inner area. Once seated around the campfire, the participants must remain seated until directed by an adult to move.

A Fire Blanket, bucket of water and Burns Kit will always be sited close to the campfire. Cling film is carried in the Emergency Ruck Sack.

Only adults are permitted to light fires, unless children are under the direct supervision of the Forest School Leader or Forest School Assistant.

Fires are lit using a match to paper and natural tinder. Cotton wool, tinder nests and waterproof matches may be used in extremely wet conditions. If sessions involve children adding fuel to the fire, this must be done with one to one adult supervision. Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the fire.

All fires must be extinguished at the end of a session. Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.

At the end of the session, the fire must be doused down with water using a watering can and rose and stirred until all smoke and steam has ceased.