

Branton Community First School
and
Breamish Valley Community Nursery



Branton Forest School

Information for Helpers

Promoting Social and Emotional Growth in Forest School

One of the strengths of Forest School is that it enables children to develop independence and self-esteem over the weeks.

How can you help?

Please follow the code below when helping at Forest Schools:

1. **Listen to children** - Actively encourage them to say honestly how they are feeling.
2. **Encourage children to attempt new things but respect their choice if they decline** - Look for genuine moments for positive feedback. e.g. 'I liked the way you..'
3. **Model honest but positive attitudes yourself** - 'I can, this will be fun etc.'
4. **Respect the children's decision making abilities** - Offer help/suggestions rather than just give help/give orders; Observe more than intervene (unless safety risk is too high.)
5. **Respect the leader's rules and procedures.**
6. **Use positive conflict reduction approaches with minor issues** - e.g. distraction, negotiation /suggesting more than one solution, rational discussion of feelings / empathy, use of space. If it's more major, let the teacher or Forest school leader deal with the matter. Don't forget to stay calm yourself.
7. **Model respect for each other and the environment** - Leave nothing but footprints; take nothing but memories.

Safe Tool Use

Our Forest school Leaders will ensure that:

- Tools/ other equipment are maintained in safe working order.
- They provide site/ tool talks, check understanding, define safe working areas and ensure that safe procedures are followed. (This includes carrying, storing, passing and using.)
- They provide suitable PPE and ensure it is worn/used when appropriate.
- They report hazards, near misses or misuse of equipment where appropriate.

How can you help?

Please ensure:

1. That you report any equipment or area which has become unsafe and avoid using such areas/equipment.
2. That you, and the children you are working with, follow the safe systems of work and procedures which were given to you by the Forest School Leader.

First Aid

Our Forest school Leaders are trained in Outdoor First Aid and Paediatric First Aid. They will have a properly stocked First Aid kit, a mobile phone, a radio and an accident book with them at all sessions.

Injury Procedures

Minor injury - wiping washing etc. Best handled by the child themselves or occasionally the class teacher if appropriate.

Please note: no-one is allowed to give a child medication that has not been provided by, or agreed with, the parents in advance.

The leader or teacher may consider contacting school and parents for collection depending on the injury.

More serious injury procedure - Follow the **Emergency Action Plan** for injuries/medical issues.

How can you help?

Familiarise yourself with and follow the procedures above.

Fire Safety

The fire assembly point is at the front of the School.

In case of fire or for a fire drill - Follow the **Emergency Action Plan** for fires.

A fire drill will take place before the group's first session with fire and at the beginning of each term.

Information

Our Forest school Leaders:

- Are DBS checked.
- Hold a Level 3 Forest School Leader certificate.
- Hold an Outdoor First Aid and a Paediatric First Aid certificate.
- Have Health and Safety information available to all staff (available in the School office).
- Provide and review risk assessments of activities regularly.
- Perform site checks before each session/day.

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How can you help?

Please ensure you:

1. Report hazards and near misses to the Forest School Leader.
2. Read the Health and safety policy information provided by the leader and adhere to the procedures required.
3. Follow guidelines/safety procedures yourself.
4. Ensure that children under your care do the same (including fire evacuation procedure).

Rachel Plunkett

Elspeth Bone

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