



Forest School

Ham Dingle Primary School

October 2019

Forest School at Ham Dingle is a child led learning opportunity that happens in the woodland setting on the school grounds. Each program consists of 6 or more sessions, on the same day and at the same time each week. The sessions are and can only be led by a trained and qualified Level 3 Forest School Leader –

Mrs Matthews and Miss Clarke.

Aims and Ethos of Forest School





FOREST SCHOOL
ASSOCIATION

RECOGNISED

Forest
School
Provider

www.forestschoollassociation.org

Child Led Learning



Forest School is heavily child led, with adults to carefully scaffold their learning.

In the setting the child's voice should be the one that is heard the most throughout.







What's on offer at Forest School

As Forest School is child led anything can happen!

The role of the Forest School Leaders and adults at Forest School is to facilitate and scaffold learning. At the end of each session there is time for children to reflect on their learning and plan what they would like to do or what they may need in the following session. All of the information contributes heavily to the planning, allowing resources to be added when needed.

Children are encouraged to risk assess for themselves supported by adult questioning.

Here's a small range of what the children might get up to:

- Den building
- Bug hunting
- Tying knots
- Role play
- Creating mud
- Fire building
- Cooking on a fire
- Safe tool use
- Natural crafts

Welfare



Clothing

All children are expected to bring suitable clothing to school ready for the Forest School session.

Children need to bring:

- Wellingtons/sturdy boots
- Long trousers and long sleeved top
- Jumper/sweatshirt
- Waterproof/warm coat
- Hat, gloves and thick socks in Autumn/Winter
- Extra layers for cold weather
- Sun hat and sun cream during the Summer

Sunglasses are not to be worn at Forest School for safety reasons including the large amount of shade on the site.

Scarves are also not allowed due to health and safety reasons.

We will provide waterproof dungarees and coats for the children.

Risk Benefit Assessments

The Forest School Leaders carry out risk benefit assessments for each opportunity and Forest School.

Risks and benefits are compared and accounted for in each assessment.

Bishops Wood Centre
Open College Network West Midlands accredited training for Forest School

FSC
FOREST STUDIES COUNCIL
NURTURING ENVIRONMENTAL
UNDERSTANDING TO ALL

Experiences & Activity Assessment

Experience/Activity: Rope play	Group details: Reception children age 4-5 group of 15
Assessment carried out by: <u>E. Clarke</u> <u>S. Matthews</u>	Other Risk Assessments referred to: Tools RA-fixed blade knife
Review date: June 2018	Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Benefits of experience/activity

Rope Play

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Tel: 01299 250513, E mail: enquiries.bw@field-studies-council.org, www.field-studies-council.org/bishopwood

Toileting

Children are encouraged to use the toilets before leaving school. Whilst at Forest School a 'toilet board' is hung on the tree near the fire circle, should a child need the toilet the names of them and adults should be noted down and a FSL informed before leaving. Key Stage 2 toilets will be accessible from the playground, the door keys will be with the toilet board.



Fire at Forest School

Children will have the opportunity to build and cook on a fire at Forest School.

Children will be invited to cook 1:1 over the fire with a Forest School Leader.

All food cooked will be vegetarian and sourced from reputable suppliers.

Dietary requirements and allergies will be catered for.

Forest School recipes:

- Popcorn
- Toast
- Damper bread
- Pancakes
- Stew and casseroles
- Jacket potatoes
- Chocolate bananas and oranges
- Vegetable skewers
- And many many more!

Behaviour at Forest School

We will follow the schools behaviour policy as follows.

At Ham Dingle we will:

- try to keep ourselves and others safe
- treat our school, the environment and each other with respect and care
- listen well to others
- use kind words, hands and feet at all times
- be honest and try to make good choices
- do our best and aim high
- try to be kind and care for one another
- try to support one another

Forest School is a very rewarding and self-regulating experience and we encourage children to follow rules to keep themselves and others safe.

At Forest School rewards will be shared as a group through lots of verbal praise. Sanctions will be time out on a log when necessary. Children will always be encouraged and welcomed to carry on their child led learning following any sanctions.

Positive Handling

Both Forest School Leader have had Team Teach training for positive handling.

Cancellation Policy

We endeavour to continue Forest School sessions throughout the year but if there are high winds or storms forecast we will not run sessions. If a session has to be cancelled the children will return to the classroom, staff will return to school and volunteers will be telephoned beforehand.

If a Forest School Leader is absent the session will not run. If staffing ratios of 1:6 are not possible due to absences we will try our best to find an alternative within school, if this cannot be done the session will be cancelled and normal lessons will resume.

Insurance Policy

Our Forest School site is owned by Dudley Council, therefore is covered by their insurance policy. Please see copy in the Handbook.

Forest School Leaders have public liability insurance as they are employees of Dudley Council.

Health and Safety

At Forest School we adhere to a 1:6 ratio for all children including a trained Forest School Leader at all times. All staff and volunteers will have read and signed the Forest School Helpers handbook to ensure all policies and procedures are agreed and followed.

Risk Assessments will be completed and kept in the Forest School Planning folder.

First Aid

Both Forest School Leaders hold a qualification in Outdoor Paediatric First Aid and are responsible for First Aid within the Forest School site. They will follow the school's First Aid policy and administer First Aid as necessary. All first aid incidents will be recorded in the Forest School accident book. The Forest School Leaders are responsible for taking the emergency rucksack to the site each time and are responsible for replenishing the contents when used at the end of each session. The First Aid bags will be checked half termly. A full First Aid kit will be on site at all times, and when necessary a Burns Kit will also be on site. Teaching Assistants that accompany groups at Forest School all hold a two day Paediatric First Aid qualification. All tool use will be carried out on a 1:1 basis by a Forest School Leader only.

Risk Management

Mrs Matthews and Miss Clarke as Level 3 Forest School Leaders will be responsible for completing all Risk Assessments and updating as necessary. Risk Assessments that will be carried out are as follows:

- Daily site sweep (will take place before the sessions)
- Risk Benefit (to include all activities and tool use)
- Dynamic (in the moment assessment)

Emergency Procedures & First Aid

Your roles are highlighted in the FS Helpers Agreement. The emergency telephone can be located in the front pocket of the red emergency rucksack. All children's records can be found in the rucksack also.

The FSL will carry a walkie talkie each session to contact the school office when needed.

Both Forest School Leaders hold Level 3 First Aid in the Outdoors and all Teaching Assistants attending Forest School hold a Level 3 Paediatric First Aid Certificate. First Aid kits are stored in the red emergency rucksack, which include all equipment including instant ice packs. The First Aid record book is orange and is also located in the rucksack. All First Aid must be recorded and where necessary reported to parents.







Night vision camera









