



Forest School Fire Safety Policy

Policy statement

Campfires are an important part of Forest School and may be used in sessions run at our Forest School site. The Forest School programme at Tonacliffe Primary School, aims to ensure that all children and adults participating in Forest School sessions with fires and/or storm kettles will do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible. Therefore, fires and/or storm kettles will only be used once the safety procedures have been introduced and the Forest School leader is confident that all participants are able to take part safely.

Location of Fire:

- Only previously agreed areas will be used for campfires in agreement with Senior Leaders at Tonacliffe Primary School.
- Campfire areas are enclosed in a fire bowl to prevent the spread of fire as agreed with the headteacher at Tonacliffe Primary School.

Fire Safety Rules:

- Fire areas are surrounded by seating logs at least 1.5 metres from the fire pit, with clear entry and exit points.
- When the campfire is in use, children are not permitted to access the area without invitation from an adult.
- When allowed to access the campfire, children must walk around the outside of the seating logs.
- Children 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.
- Long sleeves and trousers must always be worn.
- Children are not permitted to throw anything onto the fire.

- Advice on the appropriate way for dealing with smoke will be given to the children: they are advised to turn their head to one side, placing their hand across the face, to close their eyes and count to 30 (or ask an adult/peer to count for them).
- If there is a clear wind direction, seating in the line of smoke is to be avoided.
- If wind direction is variable, the leader should rearrange the seating if at all possible.
- A laminated map of how the fire area should be set out will be kept in risk assessment file for reference.
- Children are allowed to cook on the fire under a ratio of 1:2 for adult supervision.
- Children and adults are taught to kneel safely on both knees when near the fire to prevent falling or pushing into the fire.

Safety and Responsibility

Fire must always be supervised by the Forest School Leader or trained assistant.

- Fires are lit using a fire steel.
- Fires must only be lit by or under the direct 1:1 supervision of the Forest School Leader or trained assistant.
- No flammable liquids are to be used to light or accelerate fires.
- No plastics are to be burnt.
- Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the fire.
- There will always be a trained Forest School Leader present during any session that involves the use of fire.
- Protective gloves will be provided for putting fuel on the fire or cooking on the fire.

Extinguishing

- All fires must be extinguished at the end of a session.

- An adequate supply of water should always be available and within reach of the fire during campfire sessions.
- Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.
- The Forest School Leader should ensure that any large remains of wood, especially when using a long log fire, are separated from one another.
- At the end of the session, the fire must be doused down with water and stirred until all smoke and steam has ceased.
- Any remaining ash or burned materials need to be dispersed. This must only be done when it has totally cooled. It should be finely scattered throughout the woodland to enable natural decomposition and in order to 'leave no trace' so that the general public are not encouraged to light fires on site.

Written by Charlotte Clutterbuck: 1.09.23

