

Policy Handbook for Kennington CE Academy Forest School

The Forest School Principles

The Forest School ethos has six principles, which were agreed by the UK Forest School community in 2011.

Principles and criteria for good practice

Principle “Forest School is an inspirational process that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self-esteem, through hands on learning experiences in a local woodland or natural environment with trees”

1: Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.

- Forest School takes place regularly, ideally at least every other week, with the same group of learners, over an extended period of time, if practicable encompassing the seasons.
- A Forest School programme has a structure which is based on the observations and collaborative work between learners and practitioners. This structure should clearly demonstrate progression of learning.
- The initial sessions of any programme establish physical and behavioural boundaries as well as making initial observations on which to base future programme development.

Principle 2: Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.

- Whilst woodland is the ideal environment for Forest School, many other sites, some with only a few trees, are able to support good Forest School practice.
- The woodland is ideally suited to match the needs of the programme and the learners, providing them with the space and environment in which to explore and discover.

- A Forest School programme constantly monitors its ecological impact and works within a sustainable site management plan agreed between the landowner/ manager, the forest school practitioner and the learners.
- Forest School aims to foster a relationship with nature through regular personal experiences in order to develop long-term, environmentally sustainable attitudes and practices in staff, learners and the wider community.
- Forest School uses natural resources for inspiration, to enable ideas and to encourage intrinsic motivation.

Principle 3: Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners

- Where appropriate, the Forest School leader will aim to link experiences at Forest School to home, work and /or school education
- Forest School programmes aim to develop, where appropriate, the physical, social, cognitive, linguistic, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of the learner.

Principle 4: Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.

- Forest School opportunities are designed to build on an individual's innate motivation, positive attitudes and/or interests.
- Forest School uses tools and fires only where deemed appropriate to the learners, and dependent on completion of a baseline risk assessment.
- Any Forest School experience follows a Risk–Benefit process managed jointly by the practitioner and learner that is tailored to the developmental stage of the learner.

5. Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.

- Forest School is led by qualified Forest School practitioners, who are required to hold a minimum of an accredited Level 3 Forest School qualification.

- There is a high ratio of practitioner/adults to learners.
- Practitioners and adults regularly helping at Forest School are subject to relevant checks into their suitability to have prolonged contact with children, young people and vulnerable people.
- Practitioners need to hold an up-to-date first aid qualification, which includes paediatric (if appropriate) and outdoor elements.
- Forest School is backed by relevant working documents, which contain all the policies and procedures required for running Forest School and which establish the roles and responsibilities of staff and volunteers.
- The Forest School leader is a reflective practitioner and sees themselves, therefore, as a learner too.

6. Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning

- A learner-centred pedagogical approach is employed by Forest School that is responsive to the needs and interests of learners.
- The Practitioner models the pedagogy, which they promote during their programmes through careful planning, appropriate dialogue and relationship building.
- Play and choice are an integral part of the Forest School learning process, and play is recognised as vital to learning and development at Forest School.
- Forest School provides a stimulus for all learning preferences and dispositions.
- Reflective practice is a feature of each session to ensure learners and practitioners can understand their achievements, develop emotional intelligence and plan for the future.
- Practitioner observation is an important element of Forest School pedagogy. Observations feed into 'scaffolding' and tailoring experiences to learning and development at Forest School.

At Forest School all participants are viewed as:

- equal, unique and valuable

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- competent to explore & discover
- entitled to experience appropriate risk and challenge
- entitled to choose, and to initiate and drive their own learning and development
- entitled to experience regular success
- entitled to develop positive relationships with themselves and other people
- entitled to develop a strong, positive relationship with their natural world

Kennington CE Academy Forest School sees children as competent, capable, curious, adventurous and imaginative learners. Children, regardless of their age, will take from the environment which is particularly relevant, challenging and interesting to them. It is through immersion in nature that children, with adult support and guidance learn to respect nature, develop an understanding of their own place in the natural world and begin to appreciate the interconnections of living things.

Kennington CE Academy Forest School promotes the 'I can do it' attitude. Children are actively encouraged to try things out and take risks. It is this opportunity that promotes children's strong sense of self-efficacy and ability to seek challenge rather than avoid challenge and display a tendency of lack of persistence. Kennington CE Academy Forest School ensures that the environment and the attitudes of staff reflect the sought dispositions.

Within Kennington CE Academy Forest School we encourage children to explore and acquire new skills at their own pace. We focus on the process and not the end product, ensuring that tasks are small and achievable in steps.

Relationships and trust are built upon, developing an awareness of boundaries and an understanding of safety within the Forest School environment. Allowing the children the freedom to explore develops interdependence. Children learn to look out for each other, anticipate and manage own risks and situations.

Over time, through freedom of choice, children explore and investigate their new world with confidence and develop their 'flow'. It is at this point that children begin to develop the necessary abilities to explore practical skills with an adult, leading to independent projects using tools and learnt knowledge and understanding.

Lifelong learning develops within Forest School sessions. Children develop holistic skills that contribute to a confident, resilient, happy individual. Children become aware of their natural environment and seek to explore and show respect for their surroundings.

Staff and Helpers Policy

Policy Statement

The role of the Forest School Leader is to embrace the Forest School ethos and provide children with opportunities to support their learning and development. The role of the Forest School Leader is not to 'Teach' but to facilitate. The Forest School Leader will plan activities for Forest School sessions, based upon their observations of children's interest, however the Forest School Leader empowers the child with the freedom of choice to choose whether they want to participate or not.

Mr Matt Perkins	Forest school Level leadership Level 3 (Trainee) First Aid in the outdoors Level 3
Mrs Georgia Hearn	Forest school Level leadership Level 3 (Trainee) First Aid in the outdoors Level 3
Mrs Dawn Barnett Miss Jasmin Wheeler	Teachers/Teaching Assistants
	Volunteers

Accident/Emergency/Serious Incident Reporting and First Aid Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's First Aid Policy. This can be found on the school website.







Before entering the Forest School site, all adults must read and sign the Handbook.

All staff, volunteers and participants will be briefed on what to do in case of an emergency.





Policy Procedure

If an emergency occurs within the Forest School, the Forest School Leader will delegate responsibility as deemed necessary.






First Aid

-  Follow First Aid policy.
-  Remove others in group from the situation, ensuring their safety.
-  Have medical details available in FS folder and notify Head Teacher, parents/guardians as appropriate.
-  All incidents, however minor, must be recorded on an accident form.
-  Major incidents must be reported to their Head Teacher.
-  Follow up to parents/guardians in line with school policy.

Death or Serious Incident

-  Follow First Aid Policy.
-  Remain with casualty, other adult to remove rest of group from Forest School site if necessary.
-  Immediately notify the school office who will inform Head Teacher (or their representative).
-  Head Teacher (or their representative) will follow school's emergency procedures.

Stranger or Uninvited Person

-  Ensure all children present at FS are safe and evacuate the area if deemed necessary.
-  Challenge intruder, asking them to leave immediately. Escort them from the site.
-  Inform the School Office and Designated Safeguarding Leader.
-  If a child is involved, the police must be called and the child/children involved are to be removed from the situation and made to feel safe.
-  Parents/Guardians to be briefed by Forest School Leader or in accordance with advice of the Police.

Emergency Contact Numbers Ambulance/Fire Brigade: 999/111

School Office: 01233 622673

Forest School Mobile: TBC – Site manager to sort.

Requesting attendance by Emergency Services (Ambulance/Fire Brigade)




Dial 999/111 and ask for an ambulance/fire brigade.

Be ready with the following information:

 **School Phone Number: 01233 623744**

Name: **Matt Perkins and Georgia Hearn**
Position: **Forest School Lead**

Date: October 2022

-  **School Post Code: TN24 9AG**
-  **Ambulance Access: Kennington School Field**
-  **Location Details Grid Reference: TR020450**

Behaviour Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School aims to ensure that the Christian Values of Forgiveness, Friendship, Trust and Compassion are at the forefront of the Forest School behaviour ethos.

The aim of Kennington CE Academy Forest School is to provide children with a positive environment which encourages and reinforces caring, nurturing and acceptable behaviour towards one another, the environment and equipment.

Forest School provides children with the opportunity to promote positive behaviour by providing experiences that allows access to all children, regardless of their preferred learning style. Forest School provides children with the opportunity to explore and address problems which then allows them to develop acceptable coping strategies.

Cancellation Policy

Policy Statement

The management of Health and Safety at work Regulations 1999 requires employers to assess the risks of activities; Introduce measures to control these risks and to tell their employees about these measures.

Forest School Leaders are trained to risk-assess the learning opportunities that will be on offer and if there are any children with particular needs, they risk-assess the children's likely response to the experience. This contributes to providing a 'safe' environment, reducing potential hazards. This does not provide a risk-free environment.

All staff, volunteers, students, governors and children must appreciate that their own safety and that of others also depends on their individual conduct and vigilance while on the Forest School site.

Policy Procedures

The Forest Leader is responsible for checking local weather conditions on the morning of a Forest School visit.

There is no such thing as bad weather...however, wind can be a dangerous element on the Forest School site due to potential falling limbs, branches etc. Therefore if strong winds (measuring over 6 on the Beaufort scale or above 25-31 mph) or thunder and lightning, the session will not take place in the Forest School site.

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will also be cancelled if the minimum ratio of 2 adults to 10 children cannot be achieved. Forest School will also be cancelled if there is no Forest School Leader available.

Parents will be advised of the cancellation via the school's usual communication methods.

Staff will be advised when they arrive at school and will be redeployed to other classes, as required.

Complaints Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's Complaints Policy. This can be found on the school website.

Our approach to complaints or concerns is to try and deal with them at the earliest possible opportunity. Complaints are a valuable way to ensuring that we can improve our systems, and we value every opportunity that we have to improve.

We also recognise however that complaints are not just a way of appeasing individuals, and so each complaint will be approached on a case-by-case basis.

Confidentiality Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's Confidentiality Policy. This can be found on the school website.

The safety, well-being and protection of our pupils are the paramount consideration in all decisions staff at Forest School make about confidentiality.

Trust is an essential part of the ethos of our Forest School.

Pupils, parents/carers and staff need to know the boundaries of confidentiality in order to feel safe and comfortable in discussing personal issues and concerns.

Policy Procedures

School staff (including non-teaching and voluntary staff) should not promise confidentiality. Pupils do not have the right to expect that incidents will not be reported to his/her parents/carers and may not, in the absence of an explicit promise, assume that information conveyed outside that context is private. No member of this school's staff can or should give such a promise.

The safety, well-being and protection of the child is the paramount consideration in all decisions staff at this school make about confidentiality.

It is paramount that adults within the Forest School setting are mindful that it is while children have a sense of security and are deep within the 'flow' that disclosures are likely to happen.

It is the role of the adult to listen only, not to ask any leading questions and to record the disclosure as soon as possible and is safe to do so.

All concerns and disclosures are confidential and will only be shared with the child's class teacher, school's designated safeguarding leaders and necessary agencies, if appropriate.

Data Protection Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's Data Protection Policy. This can be found on the School Web-site.

Data protection is the means by which data is protected. Preventative measures will be taken to ensure restricted unauthorised access. Confidential information in the form of written or photographic records will be stored in a locked cupboard and any data held on a computer system is password protected.

Policy Procedures

Follow the Kennington CE Academy data protection policy in regards to all aspects of running the Forest School.

Digital Photo and Videos Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's Mobile Phone Policy. This can be found on the school website.

To be read in line with the Data Protection policy.

Kennington CE Academy Forest School fosters a 'culture of safety' in which the children and staff are protected from abuse, harm, and distress. We therefore have a clear policy on the acceptable use of mobile phones and other digital devices by staff, children, visitors and parents.

Policy Procedures

All parents and carers will be asked to sign a consent form allowing any images/videos taken of their child when they first join Kennington CE Academy for purposes of assessment, displays or for publicity purposes.

A register of children whose parents have and have not given permission for the images to be used for publicity will be kept by the school office and checked by the FS leads.

Photographs may be taken during Forest School sessions and displayed on display boards or a child's development records for children and parent/carers to look through if permission has been given.

Environmental Policy

Policy Statement

One of the Forest School Principles is that Forest School takes place in a natural environment in order to support and develop the relationship between the learner and the natural World. This enables a development of long term environmentally sustainable attitudes and practices in staff, learners and the wider community.

It is important that, as a Forest School, we consider the impact we have upon the land during our sessions here at Kennington CE Academy Forest School. It is vital that, as individuals and as a group, we demonstrate an acceptable level of care and respect towards the natural environment and take every effort not to damage it.

Policy Procedure

The adults within Forest School play a vital part in sharing knowledge and understanding of how to develop our abilities to care for our natural World.

We will make every effort to reduce resources we consume, minimise waste and recycle. Kennington CE Academy Forest School will show an awareness for the consequences of our actions in order to develop a harmonious relationship with the natural environment.

“The Health of the earth is at stake. How the young respond to nature, and how they raise their own children, will shape the configurations and conditions of our cities, homes – our daily lives” (Louv, p3, 2009)

Kennington CE Academy Forest School understands that it is important to be mindful of our own footprint and therefore as buyers and consumers we will take this into account when making purchases. We will, where possible, source items; as locally as possible; organically; from sustainable or renewable sources and with minimum packaging. We will also strive to be conscious of ethical factors with regards to the environment, the workers and animal welfare.

Equal Opportunities and Inclusion Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's Equality Information and Objective Policy. This can be found on the school website.

At Kennington CE Academy Forest School we are committed to giving each and every child the opportunity to achieve to their full potential, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, attainment, age, disability, gender or background.

Within the Forest School environment we actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual children or groups of children.

Food Hygiene Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School endeavours to maintain a high level of food hygiene standard in relation to purchasing, storage, preparation and serving of food.

Policy Procedures

A list of pupil's medical records will be kept within the Forest School Leader folder detailing any food allergies or intolerances.

A full activity risk/benefit assessment will be completed for any activity involving the preparing and/or consuming of food items.

Food/ingredients will be stored at correct temperatures prior to the session and use-by dates checked.

A cool box will be used to transport and store any ingredients requiring refrigeration prior to use. All ingredients must be used within 2 hours.

Unrefrigerated food will be used within 4 hours of preparation.

All equipment will be stored and checked to ensure they are clean before use.

Waste food will be disposed of promptly.

Water will be available for handwashing with anti-bacterial soap along with antibacterial sanitiser.

All hair will be tied back and loose clothing secured prior handling food or cooking on a campfire.

Within the Forest School Leaders kit when using there will always be wet wipes, tissues, anti-bac gel, gloves, and paper towels.

Water is always accessible within the Forest School site.

Health and Safety Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's Health and Safety Policy and Handbook. This can be found on the school website.

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will ensure staff and children are safeguarded and ensure there are adequate facilities and arrangements for their welfare (see Well Being Policy).

Policy Procedures

Forest School Leaders are to be fully trained and provided with suitable information and training in order to keep staff, visitors and pupils safe.

The Forest School Leaders have a duty to report all health and safety concerns to their Head Teacher or line manager. The Forest School staff must ensure they take reasonable care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by what they do or fail to do.

All tools will be risk benefit assessed to ensure the benefit outweighs the risk. An activity or tool can only be used if it has a revised rating of 12 or less. The risk benefit assessments will be kept within the Forest School Leaders folder at all times. Any new tools introduced to the forest school will be risk assessed prior to being used.

Procedures for such cases as a fire or unexpected event should be in place see Health and Safety Policy and Handbook

Personal Protective Clothing (P.P.E) Policy









Policy Statement

It is paramount that children are appropriately kitted out for Forest School sessions in order for them to not only remain safe but to ensure they have the opportunity to reach their maximum learning potential. Ensuring the children are warm in the winter and cool in the summer will contribute to the children engaging within their learning environment with a positive disposition, therefore developing lifelong learning abilities.

Policy Procedures

All Forest School Kit should be brought in for the day and then taken home to be washed.

It is important that each child has the following:

-  Spare clothes (trousers, long sleeve t-shirt, socks)
-  Wellington boots or sturdy shoes
-  Thick trousers – in cold months
-  Thick coat – in cold months
-  Warm socks – in cold months
-  Gloves, hat, scarf – in cold months
-  Sun hat – in hot months
-  Sun lotion - in hot months

Children who do not have the appropriate clothing will unfortunately not be able to take part in the Forest School session on that day.

Risk Management Policy

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Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School seeks to provide children with opportunities of choice which puts them in control. Exploring the natural environment provides children with the opportunity to have a go and take risks in their learning. It is through experience and exploration, tackling the unknown, that children develop the ability to assess and manage risk. They develop an awareness of how to be safe which contributes highly to creating strong, capable learners.

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will follow the schools Risk Management Policy found on the website.

Policy Procedures

The Forest School Leader will ensure the following steps are taken during Forest School sessions:

- Carry out risk assessments on a seasonal basis.
- Carry out daily site sweep risk assessments
- Complete an Activity Risk/Benefit Assessment for activities to be undertaken at Forest School.
- Ensure all staff and volunteers within the Forest School setting have read the relevant Site and Activity Risk Assessments prior to the Forest School session.
- Take into consideration weather conditions such as high winds or the threat/occurrence of electrical storms – if deemed unsafe to commence Forest School sessions, activities will not commence at all.
- Actively involve all staff, volunteers and children within the risk assessment process.
- Be responsible for teaching children adequate skills in order to keep themselves safe – specifically related to hand tools and fire.

The Forest School Leader will apply a consistent pro-active approach to risk assessment for all Forest School activities:

- Look for hazards
- Decide who may be harmed and how
- Evaluate the risks and decide whether existing controls are adequate or whether they need to be reassessed
- Review risk assessments on a regular basis or if circumstances change – revise if necessary.

Safeguarding Policy

Policy Statement

Name: **Matt Perkins and Georgia Hearn**
Position: **Forest School Lead**

Date: October 2022

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Kennington CE Academy Forest School will adhere to the school's Safeguarding Policy. This can be found on the school website.

The Confidentiality Policy is also relevant to this Safeguarding Policy.

Ethos

Our school is a community and all those directly connected (staff, governors, parents, families and pupils) have an essential role to play in making it safe and secure. We welcome suggestions and comments that will contribute to this process.

Kennington CE Academy Forest School recognises the importance of providing an ethos and environment that will help children feel safe, secure and respected; encourage them to talk openly; and enable them to feel confident that they will be listened to.

Camp Fire Policy

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School aims to provide children with first hand experiences of exploring fire. Fire is an exciting, sensory experience. Through experiencing fire children learn about transformations, differences between steam and smoke, the impact water has on a fire and the relating dangers.

Policy Procedure

There is one permanent campfire situated within the Forest School. This has been created by digging an area of 1m² into the grass, surrounded by thick green logs that are pegged into the ground to stop them rolling away. The level Fire Circle of 5m² has been created by using sturdy log benches for seating. There are appropriate entrance and exit points to the Fire Circle – this eliminates falling/tripping over the benches. The fire circle is situated in a place that is flat, there are no overhanging trees and is within close proximity to a water bucket.

A LIT FIRE WILL NEVER BE LEFT UNATTENDED.

Only one person will attend the fire at any given time and only one person will be within the Fire Circle at any given time (unless instructed differently by the Forest School Leader). This will be done by kneeling in the 'Respect Position' to avoid falling onto the fire. No one may enter the Fire Circle unless invited to do so by the Forest School Leader. At no point can anyone turn their back on the fire – they must slowly back away a few paces first. Along with this no items are to be placed within the Fire Circle unless done so by an adult.

Any persons moving around the Fire Circle must do so by WALKING around the outside of the logs – not inside. The word 'TABLECLOTH' will be used if anyone is caught inside the circle regardless if the fire pit is lit or not to embed the importance of remaining on the outside of the circle.

Extinguishing the Fire

These are the regulations we have in place to ensure safe practice around the fire.

- An adult will ensure that after using the fire pit the fire is completely extinguished.
- Cool water will be carefully poured onto the fire, ensuring all embers are smothered too.
- When safe to do so, the ash will be collected up and distributed around the very edge of the site in a safe manner.
- A fire blanket will be present at all times and placed within close proximity of the Fire Circle.

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- A first aid kit is available at all times.
- A bucket of water will be available to extinguish flames and cool burns.
- The Forest School Leader is trained in Outdoor First Aid.

Tools and Equipment Policy

Policy Statement

All tools used within Forest School sessions will have an additional risk assessment (See separate Risk Benefit Assessments).

Safe practice of tools within Forest School sessions provides children the opportunity to build confidence, achieve high levels of satisfaction and have fun. Through exploration, children develop a raising self-awareness and awareness of those around us. Through hands-on exploration, children get to know the right tool for the right job and find out which materials are sustainable in the natural environment and which are best for which purpose. Children develop a solid understanding, through building up sensory connections, of how to collect materials from the wood and how to cut, cleave and make things from them.

Policy Procedure

In order for children to have an acceptable, manageable risk and to have the best possible experience, it is essential that all tools are maintained to an appropriate level and are sharpened prior to use.

Tools are to be checked thoroughly prior to session. Tools must show no sign of defects that could potentially lead to an injury. Any tools showing concern, they are to be removed from action and passed to site manager for safe decommission. The tool will then be removed from the Forest School inventory list and signed off from Forest School by the site manager.

All tools will be kept in a safe, lockable location inside Kennington CE Academy when not in use.

When transporting tool to and from the FS area, tools will be kept inside a lockable storage bag.

Within the Forest School site a designated area will be assigned to activities involving tools.

No tool will be left unattended with a child.

The Forest School Leader will have overall responsibility and access.

The Forest School Leader has responsibility to ensure safe storage of tools within the Forest School site.

Tools:

- Sheath Knife
- Bow saw
- Axe
- Loppers
- Mallet
- Secateurs

Children, when ready can explore the tools on a 1:1 basis with the Forest School Leader. An introduction to the tool will be given and the importance of safety measures.

All tools will be numbered and are counted out and back in at the end of each Forest School session and logged on to a log sheet. This provides a clear visual of the usage of each tool and a record of when it was sharpened/changed.

Name: **Matt Perkins and Georgia Hearn**
Position: **Forest School Lead**

Date: October 2022

Use of Reasonable Force

Policy Statement

Kennington CE Academy Forest School will at no point use force as a form of punishment. This is against our ethos and unlawful.

Kennington CE Academy Forest School does however have the power to use reasonable force to control or restrain when deemed necessary.

Definition of Reasonable Force:

The term 'reasonable force' covers the broad range of actions that involve a degree of physical contact with pupils.

Force is usually used either to control or restrain. This can range from guiding a child to safety by the arm through to more extreme circumstances such as breaking up a fight or where a child needs to be restrained to prevent violence or injury.

'Reasonable in the circumstances' means using no more force than is needed.

As mentioned above, Kennington CE Academy Forest School will generally use force to control children and to restrain them. Control means either passive physical contact, such as standing between children or blocking a child's path, or active physical contact such as leading a child by the arm away from the situation.

Restraint means to hold back physically or to bring a child under control. It is typically used in more extreme circumstances, for example when two children are fighting and refuse to separate without physical intervention.

Forest School staff should always try to avoid acting in a way that might cause injury, but in extreme cases it may not always be possible to avoid injuring the child.

Policy Procedures

Reasonable force will be used in situations such as:

- Preventing harm to oneself
- Preventing harm to others
- Causing damage to property
- Causing disorder

Passive Physical Contact – standing in between pupils or their path

Active Physical Contact – Leading a pupil by the arm

Restraint – hold back physically or bring a pupil under control

All members of staff within the Forest School setting have a legal power to use reasonable force. This power also applies to volunteers or parents supporting sessions.

The decision to intervene is down to the professional judgement of the staff member concerned and will always depend on the pupil's individual circumstances.

Weather Policy

Policy Statement

Here at Kennington CE Academy Forest School we consider children's welfare and safety to be of top most priority.

All children will need to stay warm and dry to get the maximum learning experience of Forest School.

Policy Procedures

Forest School sessions will aim to take place regardless of the weather conditions. Kennington CE Academy Forest School believes '*there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing*' (Knight, 2009). The only time it is unsafe to go into Forest School is during high winds, when branches may fall off without warning. Therefore, Forest School sessions will not go ahead or continue if the children's safety is at risk due to high winds or a storm (stage 6 on the Beaufort Scale (winds of 25-31 mph).

All children will be kitted up in appropriate clothing before entering Forest School (see PPE Policy). Adult helpers are advised to be appropriately dressed.

Activities will be flexible and adaptable due to weather conditions.

In cold weather children will be encouraged to be active. Activities will be planned to accommodate this. More sedentary activities will take place in warmer conditions.

Shelters are available to the children during wet periods.

In severe cold weather sessions, Forest School sessions may be reduced accordingly. Children will be encouraged to drink hot drinks during sessions.

Forest School staff will pay particular attention to the canopy layer at the first risk assessment after strong winds to check for damaged trees/branches.