

Code of Conduct/Terms & Conditions

At Fox & Cubs Forest School we want everyone to be safe and enjoy themselves, so we have a few rules we ask everyone to follow:

We always:

- 🌲 Look after ourselves
- 🌲 Look after each other
- 🌲 Look after our woods and the environment

Forest school takes place in a natural woodland setting and the site is risk assessed and checked before any session to ensure forest school is as safe as is reasonably practicable. However, forest school activities are by their nature never completely hazard free and participants should understand outdoor forest school sessions cannot be completely risk free.

Respect for Nature

Learning about our environment and how we, as humans, impact upon it can help to create a sense of ownership and in turn increases our respect for all living things. At Forest School participants are encouraged not to pick wild and living things.

Remember the FS boundaries

We mark out boundaries using natural or existing features such as fences or green barriers, by marking with flags or stop hands and by playing games to remember them. Keeping within the boundaries is essential when attending sessions as only the area within the boundaries has been checked as safe to explore and to take risks. It also helps us minimise our impact.

Leave no trace

Forest school sessions will always have an impact on the environment however we minimise our impact by removing equipment, rubbish and anything we have created as we leave. We try and give back to nature, and through improving our sites, with woodland management, planting, and perhaps making a bug hotel or other habitat. Sometimes we may rotate our sites to give the area a rest.

Working with tools

Safe use of tools is practised at Forest School and participants can only use tools when supervised 1:1 or 1:2 by an experienced adult. Within the session children will find out about the potential of tools and how useful they can be but also how dangerous they can be when used incorrectly.

Respecting the Fire Circle

When we have a fire, there will be two circles around it. The outer one is made of seats to sit on around the fire. The inner circle holds the fire and is a boundary never to be crossed as it is in place to keep the children safe. Participants must never walk through the fire circle and go around the outside. Participants can only come inside the outer circle when invited.

Lighting a fire

When lighting a fire the Forest School leader will take control of the operation. A lit fire will not be left unattended at any point. A fire may not be lit until it has been confirmed to all that our fire safety equipment is in place. Any fire

will always be safely extinguished by the Forest School Leader. Nobody should enter the fire circle without being invited to by the Forest School Leader and no one should walk through the fire circle at any point.

Picking up and playing with sticks & stones

We encourage children to use sticks and stones but always think of others when doing so. Stones can be rolled, carried and used for art – but never thrown. Children can carry sticks but make sure they think about how close they are to other children. Long sticks should be transported like a wizard's staff to keep them from unintentionally (or otherwise!) poking other children. Longer sticks can be dragged/taken for a walk or carried with a child at both ends. Sticks must not be thrown, nor should children be allowed to pull them from living trees. We consider Sticks and Stones as tools, not weapons.

Rope and string use

We encourage connecting and transporting materials. If a child has a good idea and wants, for example, to try to build a rope swing or a shelter we will help them and use the chance to model appropriate knot tying. We always take care when using ropes and string as they can be tripping hazards, and ropes can burn if pulled.

Supervision

Parents and carers are responsible for their children **at all times** when in the museum grounds and buildings. Parents should be aware of where their children are and supervise at all times, being particularly mindful of the Museum boundary wall, access road and castle mound which is very steep. We reserve the right to refuse admission to anyone whose behaviour does not comply with our code of conduct and puts anyone in danger at forest school. A minimum of one adult per two attending children is required at any session.

Clothing policy

Activities take place outdoors and children should wear appropriate clothing and footwear for the conditions (see information sheet). Long sleeves/trouser legs, even in summer, help avoid insect bites and scratches from prickly plants.

Cancellation

We reserve the right to cancel forest school if insufficient bookings are taken which make the session unviable. Payment should be made in advance and is non-refundable unless the session is cancelled. The right to refuse bookings with sole discretion is reserved be that of any individual or group without need to give reasons. In the case of severe weather (snow, thunderstorms, high winds), families will be notified at the latest by 9am on the day via email and facebook/twitter/Instagram announcement, and sessions will be refunded.

Consents

A consent form must be completed for all participants and by the person with parental responsibility for anyone under 18 years. This is a requirement for participation.

GDPR

In line with the GDPR guidelines as of 25th May 2018, Fox & Cubs Forest School and Wycombe Museum are committed to protecting your data. if you have any queries about data protection, please contact us.