

Ashgate Nursery Forest School Site Policy and procedures

Statement of intent

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

So far as reasonably practicable the forest school staff and management will take all reasonable steps to identify and reduce hazards to a minimum. However all staff, parent helpers, 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 visit.

The site

The Forest School site is located at the Broomfield site of Derby College at Morley on the outskirts of Derby City. Transport is required (see transport policy). It is predominately beech and birch with some Holly, with one known protected fauna, bluebells.

Procedures

Children can only attend Forest School on completion of the parent consent forms. These provide emergency details a copy of which is carried by the forest School leader to the site.

Staff will ensure children hold hands when leaving and returning to the nursery from the minibus.

A safe drop off point has been identified where children do not have to cross the car park.

Individual risk assessments will be completed if and when necessary. Children are taught wherever possible to manage their own risk e.g. the tractor trail into the woods can be very muddy, the children are taught the general rule of thumb that if you can't see the bottom it is too deep and are shown how to measure the depths of puddles with sticks before deciding for themselves if they can walk through them.

A check list and registration is left in reception at Little Explorers Nursery so that site management are aware of who is on site. A copy of this is also left with the school clerk at Nursery.

A daily dynamic risk assessment is completed by the Forest School leader on site to assess the ground, shrub and canopy layers for potential hazards such as hung up branches.

Great care is taken in spring and growing season to protect the bluebells on site by:-

- Children taught to identify them at introduction log
- Children told about their importance and not to pick or tread (red cross used for EAL and SEN children) and reminded weekly
- The exploratory walk uses the paths through the woods
- Snack Tarpaulin set up away from bluebell areas

Any potential hazards are reported to site management via Little Explorers management team.

Emergency procedures have been established for the site.

Risk assessments have been shared with Little Explorers Nursery (on site)

Duties of the management (school clerk, head teacher and governing body)

To monitor the project and the safety measures put in place

To be aware of the risk assessments

To source, book and pay for appropriate Forest School transport.

To be available as a contact base, for group leader to contact as part of emergency procedures.

Periodically assess the effectiveness of the policies and procedures put into place.

Review the effectiveness of the use of this site and the cost effectiveness.

Sarah Leivers
Forest School Practitioner