

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

POLICY

- All participants will be given the opportunity to participate in all Forest school activities regardless of age, ability, race, sexual orientation, religion or gender. Forest school is designed to ensure ALL participants have the opportunity to reach their full potential.
- The Forest School programme promotes children's right to develop a sense of autonomy and independence through encouragement and trust.
- All participants will be respected and their individuality and potential recognised, valued and nurtured. Forest School is an environment free from prejudice and discrimination.
- Children with exceptional needs will be admitted to the Forest School programme after consultation between parents, manager and Forest school practitioners. The Forest School programme will recognise the wide range of special needs of children and will consider what part it can play in meeting these needs and also embrace differences using them as a platform to access different ways of learning for all participants.
- All participants should be adequately dressed to ensure that they are able to take part in all Forest School activities; therefore the parents / carers must supply all waterproof clothing
- Forest school will supply appropriately sized personal protective equipment e.g. work gloves, hard hats, and fire mitts.

Equal opportunities values:

- Every person will be valued, enjoyed and celebrated
- Inclusion runs through and is embedded in all Forest School activities
- Forest School sessions will create a secure, accepting and inclusive environment, in which children can flourish and develop
- Stereotyping is actively discouraged to ensure that children feel free to explore and play as they choose, without feeling restricted
- Discrimination and exclusion will always be challenged. A vast majority of the activities and experiences on offer can be adapted to suit the different needs of participants, and in order to do this effectively, it is sometimes necessary to work in partnership with the home school and families to decide on how best to meet individual participant's needs. Due to the nature of the site, we are unable to include those learners with physical disabilities, however the site is due to be under development and therefore will be able to offer such facilities in the future. To ensure the full involvement of the learner in the session, we will seek to employ extra staff to fully support participants if and when necessary.

