



Forest School Policy / Handbook / Risk Assessment / Tool Talks

This policy was agreed in March 2026 and will be reviewed in March 2028

Chair of Governors

Date March 2026

Headteacher

Date March 2026

Intent

The Peak Federation aims to use the natural outdoor woodland area to offer the children an insight into the Forest School ethos. This approach to outdoor learning encourages children to become independent, use their imagination, take appropriate risks within boundaries and initiate learning for themselves. Forest School can provide relevant, engaging experiences that support learning in all areas of the curriculum, including the emotional health aspects of learning where self-esteem and self-confidence can grow and positive relationships with peers can be formed. Forest School explores the outdoors and the natural environment with practical, useful activities, no matter the season or the weather. It develops peer learning with the adults providing support and enabling activities to take place. The Peak Federation has many additional policies which will be adhered to alongside this policy during Forest School sessions within our woodland: Behaviour Policy Safeguarding Policy SEND Policy Health and Safety Policy.

Ethos & Forest School Principles

1. Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions and aims for children to visit in blocks of six to seven weeks.
2. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are all integral parts of the Forest School process. Planning is flexible and the learners are given time to take their learning in different directions.
3. It takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment.
4. We aim to promote the holistic development in all of those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners who are emotionally literate.
5. We will offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and themselves and encouraged risky play where appropriate.
6. It will be managed and planned by a qualified Forest School Practitioner. Anna Crease is a Level 3 trained leader with Archimedes Forest School Award.

The Forest School Principles and other information can be located at:

<http://www.forestschoollassociation.org/full-principles-and-criteria-for-goodpractice/>

Implementation

Our Forest School sessions will be planned by a qualified Level 3 Forest School leader and delivered by the class teachers. Each class will have at least one half-term exploring a Forest School site – this may be in Grindleford or Breedon, Hope Valley. Staff deliver a progressive program following the guidance set out in this document.

Therefore, we seek to offer outdoor experiences that allow children to:

- Plan, build, evaluate and sometimes demolish.
- Find similarities and differences, observe and classify.
- Be energetic, adventurous and assess risk.
- Make mark, use large scale media, be messy.
- Plant, grow and harvest.

- Hide, explore and discover.
- Investigate, make predictions and test theories.
- Imagine, pretend and reflect.
- Measure, locate, transport and record.

Forest School Rules

Expectations of behaviour will be set by the Forest School Leader and discussed with the children in the classroom beforehand, in conjunction with the School's Behaviour Policy. Children will also help set rules, which will be revisited at every session. We have Nurturing Nature Guidelines that the children are expected to remember and follow during the sessions.

These include:

- 'No pick, no lick, be careful how you carry a stick.'
- Respect for plants, trees and animals.
- Staying in view of the Leader.
- Always use walking feet around the site.
- When scavenging, only collect the natural debris on the floor.
- If you find anything you think could be dangerous, let the Leader or grown up know.
- Always stay within the designated areas.

Environmental Considerations:

One of the main principles of Forest School is to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainability. Each activity carried out as part of Forest School will have impact on the environment, some positive and some negative. We aim to keep the negative impact to a minimum by regularly inspecting the site. All those involved in Forest School will be encouraged to learn greater awareness of the world around them and to show respect to the wildlife by 'nurturing nature'.

Forest School Policies

The following policies have been created to ensure the safety and well-being of all those involved in Forest School when taking part in more risk associated opportunities.

Site Policy

The site will be left in a safe and ordered manner at the end of each session. The FS leader is responsible for the pre-session Site Risk Assessment by:

1. Completing a pre-session site risk assessment form and ensuring hazardous areas are cordoned off using the hazard tape.
2. Checking trip hazards and ensuring all safe storage of wood at the sides of fences or in the designated cordoned off area.
3. Fire area is safe, seating is at least 1 metre away from the fire pit and walkways around the pit circle are clear.

The FS leader is also responsible for ensuring a site risk assessment is completed after the session by:

1. The removal and disposal of all left over food.
2. The safe storage of non-perishable items.

3. Safely storing all wood to the sides of the fences and/or in the designated area.
4. Turning fire bowls so they do not collect water.
5. Leaving all areas clear of litter.

If an unknown visitor is noticed on our Forest School site, staff members will:

- Challenge intruder, asking them to leave immediately.
- Ensure the group are assembled and taken to a safe location by a suitable designated adult.
- Escort the visitor from the site.
- Inform the School's Office and Child Protection Liaison Officer.

If a child is involved, the police must be called, and the child/children involved are to be removed from situation and made to feel safe. Where relevant/necessary, parents/guardians should be briefed by Forest School Leader ASAP or in accordance with advice of the Police.

Safety Policy

All activities will have been risk assessed and all staff will have seen the risk assessments and understood them. Verbal feedback with the Forest School Lead will happen after each session to ensure the timely reporting of accidents and incidents. All adults are aware of the system for arrivals and departures. Safety checks on the site, both from indoors and outdoors, are made before each session using the safety checklist and recorded. Equipment is checked regularly, and any damaged items removed to be mended or discarded. All dangerous materials are stored out of reach of young people. Young people do not have unsupervised access to any hazardous materials, tools or equipment. No one will walk about or participate in the sessions with hot liquid or place anything of this nature on surfaces where it might easily be knocked off. A register of both adults and young people is completed so that an accurate record of all those present is available in case of emergency. A correctly stocked Forest Schools first aid kit and burns kit is always available.

Accident & Emergency Policy

Emergency Services will access the site from the footpath leading up to the Forest School site. Accidents occurring at Forest School must be reported to the office where information will be recorded using our existing systems.

Following an accident, the Forest School leader will review any relevant policies and procedures to check if the accident or incident highlights any current or potential issues with the current protocols.

In the case of an accident: The Forest School leader will assess the situation and the extent of any injuries; they will also inform another member of staff so that there is both support staff and witnesses. First aid can be administered by the lead member of staff and the medical records will be logged accordingly, this should include the time and details of the incident. If the lead member of staff requires additional assistance, they will follow the school First Aid procedures and they will radio the office for additional assistance.

If a child has burned themselves, in line with First Aid protocol, they will submerge the burned area in tepid water (fire bucket) for an extended period of time (at least 20 minutes) and first aid procedures will be followed.

Emergency Services: If emergency services are required, then the lead member of staff will ensure the immediate safety of the casualty and call 999 directly. The school office will be notified and if needed, assistance requested. A member of staff will be sent to meet the ambulance and bring the paramedics to the casualty. The other pupils will be called back to the site and accounted for. Another member of staff will take the other pupils away from the casualty or danger and keep them occupied and safe. The lead member of staff will perform any necessary first aid on the casualty until the paramedics arrive. If the casualty is taken to hospital, a member of school staff will accompany them. The casualty's parents will be informed of the incident, and details will be recorded (name, date, time, reason for the visit, treatment/advice given). This is then signed by the staff member in attendance and a member of SLT.

Essential Equipment Policy

In addition to tools suited to the planned for activities, the Forest School leader will always take an emergency bag with them. The contents of the emergency bag will vary depending on the time of year and weather conditions, the site being used, and the planned for activities according to the relevant risk assessments and daily risk assessment. There are of course also essential items that should be taken to every session:

- First Aid Kit
- Forest School Policy
- Medicine for relevant children (asthma pumps)
- Risk Assessments
- Communication Devices (mobile phone and/or walkie talkie – checked for working order and signal strength)
- Clean Water
- Emergency whistle
- Emergency Life Blanket
- Accident forms
- Appropriate spare clothing
- Wet wipes, hand sanitiser
- Snacks
- Plastic bag
- Fire blanket
- Torch
- Burns kit

Poor Weather Policy

Forest School sessions will go ahead in all weather conditions with only a few exceptions (in accordance with the General Welfare and Weather Risk Assessment):

- Strong winds that make woodland areas hazardous for use due to falling debris.
- When it is dangerous to get around the site by foot due to snow, flooding or ice etc.
- Very wet cold conditions where hypothermia is a real possibility.

Exposure to the elements is part of the magic of nature and therefore an integral part of forest school. In more adverse weather, we will review the planned activities and site areas and may

change plans and, in some cases, may complete some of the session indoors or within the garden. In the summer, the trees in the woodland area and our garden will provide good sun cover. Please remember to apply sun cream to your child and/or supply it so that they can put it on. We will use the BBC weather online forecast to make judgments about the expected conditions.

Guidelines for Wind Speeds:

Beaufort Scale	Description and Wind Speeds	Land Signs	Comments
0-3	<i>Calm to gentle breeze</i> <1 - 10 knots 0 - 19 kph 0 - 12 mph	Light flags extended Leaves in constant gentle motion	Ideal conditions
4	<i>Moderate breeze</i> 11 - 16 knots 20-28 kph 12.1 - 17.9 mph	Most flags extend fully Small branches move Dust and loose paper may be raised	Generally fine for FS to continue
5	<i>Fresh Breeze</i> 17 - 21 knots 29 - 38 kph 18 - 23.6 mph	Small trees in leaf sway Tops of trees sway in noticeable motion	OK to continue provided site has been thoroughly checked for dislodged branches and dead trees/branches but dead trees/branches but be prepared to move off site if wind increases
6	<i>Strong Breeze</i> 22 - 27 knots 38 - 49 kph 23.6 - 30.9 mph	Large Branches in motion Umbrellas used with difficulty	Alternative area away from forest school site for session such as playground, hall or classroom
7	<i>Near gale</i> 28 - 33 knots 50 - 61 kph 31 - 38 mph	Whole trees in motion Inconvenience walking against the wind	Alternative area away from forest school site for session such as playground, hall or classroom

Clothing and Toileting Policy

To ensure that the children are sufficiently protected from the weather and the forest environment we require children to be wearing appropriate clothing and footwear. Clothing will get muddy, so old home clothes are required. Forest School sessions will take place in all weathers unless the safety of the participants is in question, due to high winds or icy ground (The General Welfare and Weather Risk Assessment will be consulted).

‘There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing.’ – Alfred Wainwright

The general rule is to wear lots of layers which keep in the heat and can be removed if needed.

Suitable clothing is essential for everyone participating.

In their Forest School kit, children should have:

- Long sleeved t-shirt, even in warm weather to help protect against bites, stings and scratches.
- Trousers will be worn to reduce the risk of bites, stings and scratches.
- Waterproof over trousers or dungarees and a waterproof jacket (important when wet to prevent under clothing getting wet/damp as we have no-where to dry clothing between sessions).
- Long socks, wellies, walking boots or old trainers (in very hot dry weather)
- During the summer, a sunhat and sunscreen should be supplied
- During the colder months, extra layers such as a fleece, leggings, tights, hats and gloves etc are required.

Weather		
Cold	Warm	Wet
Jumper	Long sleeved T-shirt	Waterproof jacket
Coat	Long trousers/Jeans or	Waterproof trousers
Trousers	Leggings/Joggers	Wellington boots/sturdy
Thick socks	Socks	Waterproof walking boots
Walking boots or wellington boots	Trainers/walking boots	Spare socks
Woolly hat	Sun hat/cap	
Scarf	Sun cream	
Gloves	Insect repellent	
Thermals		

Children should bring in and leave their Forest School clothes in a bag (clearly marked with their name) in their classroom. All Forest School Kit should be taken home throughout the year (once a half term or term) to be washed and brought back in.

We will ask the children to use the toilet before leaving the setting. If the children need to go to the toilet during the session, they are to alert their class teacher, who will allow them to have a 'wild wee'. It is essential that the lead member of staff in the site ensures there is no one around and that a suitable area is chosen with privacy in mind.

Tools and Tool Use Policy

We are committed to providing children with access to a wide range of equipment that stimulates enjoyment, learning and development. Using small hand tools is an important part of Forest School as it enables children to develop new, practical skills that help them develop self-confidence. To enable that this is safely carried out, hand tools are to be maintained in good order by the Forest School Leader. The class teachers will inspect the tools before each session to ensure safety. Children and adults will be taught how to handle tools properly and to treat them with respect by learning 'Tool Talks'.

Whilst using hand tools, the staff to child ratio is increased depending on the tool in use. The ratios will vary from 1:1 to 1:3. Adult and child sized gloves will be available and are only to be used for the 'helping hand'. Running with tools is prohibited as it pointing with the tools. Children will lose permission to use tools if the guidelines are not followed.

General rules for tool use:

All tools have a separate risk assessment (please see the school website for copies of the separate Risk Assessments and Forest School Policy).

- The Forest School Leader is nominated to ensure safe storage of tools on school premises.
- All staff to ensure safe storage whilst at the Forest School Site.
- We do not walk around with tools, wherever possible.
- Tools should be kept clean with oily rag, sharp and checked before every use.
- Tools should only be used with a designated trained adult.

Knives/Peelers:

- Children must be supported 1:1 or 1:2 depending on age range by an adult.

- Users should preferably be sat down in a designated area.
- Knives should be used away from the body.
- Ensure knives are clean and covered when not in use.

Bow Saw:

- Children will be supported 1:1 by an adult and good practice demonstrated and when confident and competent, can be paired up with the Forest School Leader observing.
- Guard is in place when not in use.
- Use in a designated area away from others.

Loppers:

- Children must be supported 1:1 by an adult and good practice demonstrated and when confident and competent, can be paired up with the Forest School Leader observing.
- Use in a designated area, away from others.
- Loppers must be kept closed except when in use.
- Loppers must only be used above the ground if possible.

Drills

- Children must be supported 1:1 by an adult and good practice demonstrated and when confident and competent, can be paired up with the Forest School Leader observing.
- Use in a designated area, away from others.
- Drills must be kept pointing down wherever possible.
- Drills must only be used on a firm surface.

Fire Safety Policy

Fire poses a threat to life through fume, smoke, burning and structural collapse. The aim of the fire safety policy is to minimise the risk of fire by taking the adequate safety precautions. So far as practicable, forest school leaders must ensure that children and volunteers who attend forest school sessions are aware of any aspects of the fire safety measures which affect them. Volunteers and other supporting staff will be expected to read the Fire Risk Assessment document prior to any forest school sessions involving fire. The policy, procedures and risk assessment for fire use will be regularly reviewed and any recommendations will be fully implemented by staff. Any major changes to policy and risk assessments will also be reviewed by Governors.

Fire prevention measures centre upon the removal or control of available fuel and ignition sources. Fuel includes waste, debris, flammable gases and liquids and flammable materials.

Waste materials must not be allowed to accumulate in and around the Forest School site areas. Waste bags and bins are provided each session and must be regularly emptied and rubbish disposed of.

Flammable liquids are never stored or used on site.

When fires are being lit in the fire pit during forest school sessions, the leader will ensure all staff and learners adhere to the fire procedures and risk assessment. Children will be strictly

supervised when using the fire pit and fire lighting materials. A set of fire gloves and a fire blanket will be kept close to the fire area but away from naked flames. A jerry can filled with water and fire bucket will be prepared beforehand.

A fire should only be built in the designated fire pit. The fire pit in our forest school is surrounded by seating logs/benches at least 1 metre from the fire pit. Pupils will be taught how to change seats by standing, stepping backwards over the seating and then walking around the outside of the seating area. They must never cross into the inner area unless invited to do so. Several sessions might be needed before the Forest School Leader is confident all pupils will do this. Pupils will be encouraged to use the phrase "Red Dragon" to remind each other of the rule to not enter the fire circle.

When using the fire, long hair, scarves or any items of clothing dangling should be secured away. When an adult or a child is using the fire, they should adopt the "Respect" position with one knee down and the other up to allow rapid exit from the fire. The number of pupils accessing the fire should be limited to prevent pushing or tripping. Once the fire activity is over (i.e. cooking marshmallows) the pupils should leave the fire circle.

All fires must be extinguished at the end of a session. Water should always be to hand during campfire sessions. Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash. At the end of the session, the fire must be doused down with water and stirred until all smoke and steam has ceased. "Feeling" for the heat should be used to ensure no heat is present if so, douse with more water. All traces of the fire should be removed and leaves etc used to cover fire site



Risk Assessment for Forest School

Date of Assessment: December 2025

Date of Review: December 2026

Activity/Process/Operation	What are the hazards?	What risk do they pose?	Risk Level	What control measures are currently in place?
Movement around site	Uneven ground	Trip/fall	M	Rules of walking around the site discussed with staff and pupils
	Tree stumps	Trip/fall	M	Stumps pointed out at the start of the forest school sessions
	Trees (overhead)	Falling branches/debris	M	Trees monitored by National Trust and assessed by staff at the start of each session
	Low branches	Cuts, scratches, eye injury	M	Rules of walking around the site discussed with staff and pupils. Low lying branches cut where necessary
	Brambles/nettles	Cuts, stings	M	Position of plants stated at the beginning of each session Site maintained and paths kept clear
	Litter	Cuts	L	Sweep of site by staff to remove

				Rules of inform the staff if any litter found
	Seasonal poisonous plants	Poisoning	M	No fingers in mouth rule No picking living plants
	River	Drowning	L	Area out of bounds unless with an adult Supervision in that area at all times
Tools	Use of string/twine/wool	Rope burn Wrapping around body parts	M	Demonstration of how to use string for activity
	Incorrect usage	Cuts/serious injury	M	Tools stored appropriately and only accessible by staff Tool rules shared with staff and pupils
	Unsupervised usage	Cuts/serious injury	H	Tools only available for appropriate activities Adult supervision at all times
	Unsafe/broken tools	Cuts/serious injury	M	Tools checked at the beginning of each session Tools maintained and cleaned regularly
	Improper use of hand drill	Cuts/serious injury	H	Tool demonstration used at the start of the activity Tool talk given to all adults and staff Adult supervision at all times
	Improper use of bow saw	Cuts/serious injury	H	Tool demonstration

				used at the start of the activity Tool talk given to all adults and staff Adult supervision at all times
	Improper use of potato peelers	Cuts/serious injury	H	Tool demonstration used at the start of the activity Tool talk given to all adults and staff Adult supervision at all times
	Improper use of loppers/secateurs	Cuts/serious injury	H	Tool demonstration used at the start of the activity Tool talk given to all adults and staff Adult supervision at all times
	Improper use of knives	Cuts/serious injury	H	Tool demonstration used at the start of the activity Tool talk given to all adults and staff Adult supervision at all times
Fire Lighting	Fire striker and flint and steel	Fire spreading/burns/injuries/death	M	Staff will decide if the child is ready to use a fire striker taking into account their maturity, dexterity and experience. Staff will demonstrate how to use a fire striker safely. The fire striker will

				<p>only be used in the cleared fire circle area. Fire safety briefing will be given prior to use of fire striker.</p> <p>Before the start of a session, the tools will be counted in and out. All tools will be checked for faults and any damaged tools will be removed from use. Once the fire striker has been used it will be returned to the tool box. Children will be taught to use the fire striker safely in the briefing and staff will model how to strike it safely. It will only be used in the location of the fire circle. Only one child will use a striker at a time. The fire striker will be transported in the palm of the hand and not swung around. They must never be thrown.</p>
	Improper behaviour in the fire circle	Burns/serious injury/inhalation/death	M	<p>Rules around the fire circle shared with all staff and pupils</p> <p>Fire always supervised by adult</p>

				Pupils removed if safety is a concern
	Bags and belongings in the fire circle	Trips/sprains/burns	L	Pupils will be reminded to keep the fire circle clear Fire always supervised by adult
	Fire spreading	Burns	M	Fire lit only in fire circle Area cleared of debris before use Removal of overhanging branches Fire supervised by adult Water bucket kept near Fire properly extinguished
	Kelly Kettle use	Scolds/burns	H	Kettle only used by trained adult Heat proof gloves used to handle kettle Fire lit in Kelly kettle only in fire circle Area cleared of debris before use Fire supervised by adult Water bucket kept near
Camp fire cooking	Food	Burns/food poisoning/eating off sticks – risk of bacterial infection/ poisoning	M	Simple recipes will be followed If food needs to be kept chilled, a cool box with Ice blocks will be used Any food used must be safe to eat and within its use-by date Members of staff needs to know

				<p>about any food allergies/intolerances before the session and if children have food allergies, then those foods must not be used Food sticks must either be purchased skewers or whittled live (green) branches (not dead wood) Fire glove will be used to place / move / remove baked foods from embers Saucepans / frying pans will have metal handles and fire glove will be used to pick up pans</p>
	Unsuitable clothing/long hair	Burns/serious injury/death	L	<p>Long hair needs to be tied up when tending fire Synthetic gloves are not worn when tending the fire Any clothes that are hanging loose such as scarves and belts must be tucked in before entering the Fire pit area</p>
Weather	High winds	Head injury/eye injury/cuts/bruises/broken bones	M	<p>Weather channels, radio and weather warnings observed Site sweep on days with that are windy with Beaufort score of</p>

				<p>>9 < 6 to ensure no loose branches are present</p> <p>Removal of loose branches if possible</p> <p>If branches are not reachable, then area of risk taped off, and safety briefing given to students to stay away</p> <p>Medical bag to contain eye wash</p>
	High temperatures	Sun burn/heat stroke/dehydration	M	<p>Prior to sessions observe weather channels, radio and weather warnings</p> <p>Ensuring students wear suitable clothing in hot weather – long sleeved cotton tops, long light trousers and a hat</p> <p>Sun cream to be applied prior to session</p> <p>All children will take regular breaks to have a drink</p> <p>Ensure that students do not spend long periods in the full sunshine or at all between 11.00 and 3.00</p> <p>Children will be encouraged to have a rest and drink in a shady area</p> <p>Forest School staff will put up</p>

				more shelters to provide shade
	Very low temperatures	Frost bite/hyperthermia	M	<p>Prior to sessions observe weather channels, radio and weather warnings</p> <p>Ensuring students are wearing suitable cold weather clothing, thermals, hats, scarves, waterproofs, gloves and thin layers</p> <p>Ensuring that letters are sent to parents to remind them what suitable clothing is required and ensure a reply is received</p> <p>Ensuring that there are enough extra clothes on site should a child not dress appropriately</p> <p>Offer hot drinks regularly to ensure hydration</p> <p>Use of Kelly kettle and flasks</p>
Use of acrylic paint	Acrylic paints	Inhalation/spillage/poisoning	L	<p>Water-based acrylic paint used</p> <p>Children given clear instructions for use</p> <p>Adult supervision</p> <p>Children wearing old clothing</p>
Tarps, hammocks and rope swings (including rope / string safety)	Rope visibility Condition of ropes Knots	Cuts/bruises Rope burns Broken bones	M	Children will be informed of safe rope use, they

	<p>Unsuitable or loose branches Tarps Hammocks</p>		<p>should only be used for tarps and dens Children will be shown how to use hammocks appropriately - how to get in and out safely Brightly coloured ropes will be used to make it easier to see Visually impaired students will have 1-1 support All ropes used to build shelters will be shown to students during introduction sessions Where possible ropes will always be anchored above waist height so they can be easily seen Children will be advised to keep a look out for ropes when they are being used for activities It is the responsibility of the Forest School leader to ensure the ropes are in good condition before using them and any that show signs of wear and tear must be removed from use and disposed of Ropes will be bought from a</p>
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				<p>reputable school supplier</p> <p>Dangerous or loose branches will be identified during the daily site sweep</p> <p>They will be removed where possible</p> <p>Ropes or hammocks should not be tied to branches unless the Forest School leader or Adult helpers have advised that it is safe to do so just in case they break</p> <p>Ropes securing hammocks and tarps must be tied to trees with appropriate knots</p> <p>The Forest School leader will check that the hammock is safe to use before students climb in</p> <p>The ground below hammocks and tarps needs to be cleared from stones or branches</p> <p>The space above the hammock and tarps needs to be checked and cleared of any loose branches</p>
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The Bow Saw

Use the information below to help you stay safe in Forest School.

Walk	Guard on. Held by the top of the saw. Saw holding downwards in line with leg.
Pass	Pass with saw blade facing downwards.
Stored	Guard on. In designated storage. When the tool is placed on the floor, the blade should be facing towards the body and the handle facing outwards.
What for?	Cutting wood larger than a 2p coin.
How?	<p>Kneel in the respect position with legs away from the saw blade and the wood off the ground.</p> <p>Use a support under the log.</p> <p>The first child holds the handle whilst the second child holds the other side.</p> <p>Until the saw has made an indentation into the wood, both users should put their hands through the handle and hold the wood.</p> <p>Once an indentation has been made and the saw is less likely to bounce, the users can hold the wood adjacent to the saw.</p> <p>It is important to communicate effectively with the other person holding the saw.</p> <p>As the saw is pulled backwards and forwards, the two children use an agreed-upon phrase such as “push” “pull”.</p> <p>Before the children use the saw, the leader should ensure that this conversation has taken place and a phrase has been agreed upon.</p> <p>The Forest School leader should supervise all tool use.</p>
Maintenance	<p>Clean after each session</p> <p>Ensure blade is guarded when not in use</p> <p>Replace blade as needed</p>

Tool talk

*This is a **Bowsaw***

This is the handle

This is the blade cover

I take the blade cover off like this

This is the blade

This is the cutting edge

When I have finished sawing, I put the cover back on like this

I stand with the bowsaw like this

I walk with the bowsaw like this

I pass the bowsaw like this

When I use the bowsaw, I use it two arms and a tool away from anyone else except my partner

I use the bowsaw to cut anything bigger than a 2 pence piece

I wear a glove on the helper hand

When I am not using the bowsaw, I put it down with the handle facing out and the blade facing in. When I have finished using the bowsaw I put it in the designated place or the toolbox provided



The Loppers

Use the information below to help you stay safe in Forest School.

Walk	Carry loppers closed, tucked under arm, holding lower handle, end pointing down.
Pass	Pass handles towards friends, blades towards the floor.
Stored	Blades closed in a secure storage area.
What for?	Cutting wood with up to a diameter of 4cm
How?	<p>Modelled by an adult.</p> <p>Hold the handles at the end when cutting. One hand holds the top handle and one hand holds the bottom.</p> <p>The loppers are used in a scissoring motion. They are used by one child but another child can hold the stick to help stabilise it.</p> <p>Keep parts of the body, especially fingers, away from the blades.</p> <p>Bracing hand away from cutting zone.</p> <p>To be supervised by an adult.</p>
Maintenance	<p>Clean and dry blades after each session</p> <p>Check for rusting or sharpness of blades.</p> <p>Sharpen or replace when necessary.</p>

Tool talk

*These are my **loppers***

This is the handle

This is the blade

This is the cutting edge

I stand with my loppers like this

I walk with my loppers like this

I pass the loppers like this

I use the loppers two arms and a tool away from anyone else except my partner

I use the loppers to cut anything smaller than a two pence piece

I do not use gloves with this tool

When I am not using my loppers, I put them on the ground with the handles facing forwards and the blade facing behind me

When I have finished using my loppers, I place them in the designated place or the toolbox provided



Knives

Use the information below to help you stay safe in Forest School.

Walk	Walk, don't run. If using a knife, it should be clipped into the sheath. Should be held by the handle.
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	Blade should be pointing downwards.
Pass	Pass with the handle facing your friend.
Stored	When not in use, store in a secure box. Knives need to be stored in the sheath.
What for?	To whittle wood.
How?	Whittle sitting down. Ensure the area is safe before beginning. Elbows on knees, hold stick pointing down, between legs or beside legs. Whittle downwards, away from the body.
Maintenance	Clean and dry blades after each session Check for rusting or sharpness of blades. Sharpen or replace when necessary.

Tool talk

*This is my **sheath knife***

This is the handle

This is the sheath

I take the sheath off like this

This is the blade

This is the cutting edge

When I have finished, I put it back in the sheath like this

I stand with the sheath knife like this

I walk with the sheath knife like this

I pass the sheath knife like this

When I use the sheath knife, I use it two arms and a tool away from anyone else except my partner

I use the sheath knife for cutting string and whittling wood

I wear a glove on the helper hand

When I am not using the sheath knife, I put it down with the handle facing out and the blade facing in. When I have finished using the sheath knife, I put it in the designated place or the toolbox provided



Hand Drill

Use the information below to help you stay safe in Forest School.

Walk	Walk, don't run. Drill bit should be facing the floor or taken out.
Pass	Pass with the handle facing your friend.
Stored	When not in use, store in a secure box.
What for?	To make holes in wood.
How?	Place wood for drilling on a hard surface. Hold wood steady with free hand.

	Press firmly down and turn the handle. Reverse twist to remove drill. Keep checking progress to avoid drilling the surface.
Maintenance	Clean and dry blades after each session Check for rusting of drill bits. Replace when necessary.

Tool talk

*This is my **hand drill***

This is the handle

This is the drill bit

I put the drill bit in here like this

This is the sharp point

To drill a hole, I do this

When I have finished, I put it down like this

I stand with the hand drill like this

I walk with the hand drill like this

I pass the hand drill like this

When I use the hand drill, I use it two arms and a tool away from anyone else except my partner

I use the hand drill for making holes in wood

I wear a glove on the helper hand

When I am not using the hand drill, I put it down with the handle facing out and the blade facing in. When I have finished using the hand drill, I put it in the designated place or the toolbox provided

