



# Use of Fire Policy

## Purpose

To set out the Tyggwhistle policy on the safe use of fire in a Forest School setting.

## Why do we need a policy?

- To ensure that all participants, their parents and carers, staff at the school, and other stakeholders are kept free from harm by minimising hazards and their associated risks;
- To ensure that any residual risks that cannot be mitigated, are clearly communicated to all stakeholders so they can make informed judgements about the risks to which they are exposed.
- To ensure that all stakeholders are informed about the role they play in planning for and responding to risks.

## How will we manage risk?

The school will:

- Only use fire in a session once the group has been assessed as ready to manage the associated risk through appropriate behaviour.
- Ensure all participants are correctly briefed on safe fire practice.
- Ensure that appropriate PPE and emergency response equipment is used in all fire sessions.

This policy was implemented on **January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019**

The policy will be reviewed and updated in **January 2020.**

## How will we action this policy?

- Only the designated area with a defined fire pit will be used for lighting fires.
- The fire pit will be demarcated with a log surround.
- Seating logs will be placed at least 1.5m from the fire pit area.
- Participants will only enter the area between the seating and the fire with permission.
- Participants will be instructed to exit from the circle by stepping over the seating and walking around the back of the seating.
- Once seated, participants will be instructed to remain in their place unless permission is given to move.
- Fire will only be used in Forest sessions when all participants are considered to be clear on the fire expectations.
- Wind direction and smoke behaviour will be considered when arranging the seating prior to lighting the fire.
- Only participants who have received appropriate instruction on how to light or fuel a fire will be allowed to carry out this procedure and always under direct supervision.
- A fire will only be lit once the burns kit, fire blankets and a bucket of water have been checked off and sited close to the fire.
- The fire will be fully extinguished at the end of the session.
- Wherever possible fuel will be completely burned to ash before extinguishing the fire.
- If large lumps of fuel remain, this will be separated and monitored until the Forest School leader is satisfied that it has been fully extinguished.
- The Forest School Leader will return to the fire after the session to check that it has been properly extinguished.
- The school will ensure that staff are relevantly trained to carry out their roles. This includes ensuring that an appropriately qualified first aider is present during forest school sessions.