

Pensans CP School



Forest School Fire Safety Policy

Reviewed on: September 2019
Next Review Date: September 2021

PENSANS SCHOOL FOREST SCHOOL FIRE SAFETY POLICY

Campfires are an important part of Forest School and are used in many sessions. Pensans School aims to ensure that all children and adults participating in Forest School sessions with fires will do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible.

Location

1. Only previously agreed areas will be used for campfires.
2. Campfire areas are enclosed by logs or rocks to prevent the spread of fire.

Positioning of Children and Adults

1. Fire areas are surrounded by seating areas at least 2 metres from the fire pit.
2. When the campfire is in use, children are not permitted to access the area without permission.
3. When allowed to access the campfire, children must walk around the outside of the seating area and wait for permission to step over. Once permission has been given, they must sit, ensuring legs are drawn into the seat and not outstretched.
4. Once seated around the campfire, the children must remain seated until directed by an adult to move.
5. Children will be taught how to change seats by standing, stepping over the seat and then walking around the outside of the seating area. They must never cross the inner area.
6. Long sleeves and trousers must always be worn.
7. Children are not permitted to throw anything onto the fire.
8. Advice on the appropriate way for dealing with smoke will be given to the children: they are advised to turn their head to one side, placing their hand across the face, to close their eyes and count to 30 (or ask an adult/peer to count for them)
9. If there is a clear wind direction, seating in the line of smoke is to be avoided.
10. If wind direction is variable, the leader should rearrange the seating if at all possible.

Safety and Responsibility

Lighting and keeping fires burning

1. Only adults are permitted to light fires. This will usually be the Forest School (Person in Charge) Leader.
2. Fires are lit using fire lighting blocks, newspaper and matches or a strike stick.
3. No flammable liquids are to be used to light or accelerate fires.
4. No plastics are to be burnt.
5. If sessions involve children adding fuel to the fire, this must be done with one to one adult supervision.
6. Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the fire.

Extinguishing fires

1. All fires must be extinguished at the end of a session.
2. Water should always be to hand during campfire sessions.
3. Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.
4. Forest School (Person in Charge) Leaders should ensure that any large remains of wood are separated from one another.
5. At the end of the session, the fire must be doused down with water and stirred until all smoke and steam has ceased.
6. Large build-ups of potash, from several fires, need to be dispersed. This must only be done when it has totally cooled, preferably the following day. It should be finely scattered throughout the woodland to enable natural decomposition.