



## **Additional Risk Assessment Measures**

All sessions hosted by Farnham Forest School will follow the principles of *Forest School*: to support and encourage a child-led, holistic approach to play. Children are encouraged to challenge themselves and learn how to engage in risky play safely, developing their resilience, their physical abilities, and sense of well-being.

In order for all children to stay safe during Forest School sessions, the following rules, risk assessments and procedures have been put in place to ensure children and adults can reduce the risk of the activities available:

Dynamic risk assessments will balance risks with the benefits of doing an activity. For more complex and risky activities, e.g. tool use, the details below are an overview and a more detailed risk assessment will be available at the time of delivery.

### Ratios:

Our policy is 1 Leader to 10 children whilst at the Scout Hut, for 6-11 year olds. If we venture up to Farnham Park with a group, our Ratios may change and we may use volunteers at these sessions.

### Understanding the site boundaries

At the beginning of each session, the children will be made aware of where on the site they can explore and how far they can go.



All children and adults will be taught the return call: "One, two, three. Come back to me." On hearing this call everyone will be taught to stop what they are doing carefully and return to the fire circle or designated meeting place. This will have been introduced to everyone through a game and practised many times. The call is used at regular periods throughout the session for example at snack time.

#### Running and Trip Hazards:

Everyone should be aware of the trip hazards and risk of bumping into others on the site. Whilst children will not be stopped from running, they will be taught to assess where it is safe to run. Charging around with no awareness of others will be discussed and discouraged. Walking will be positively encouraged unless playing an organised game.

#### Sticks and Tools: (also refer to specific Tool Use Risk-Benefit Assessment)

Sticks and tools are not to be held when running. Children will be allowed to carry sticks shorter than their arm's length, whilst being reminded to think about how close they are to other children. Longer sticks can be dragged or carried with a child at both ends. Sticks must not be thrown, nor should children be allowed to pull them from living trees.

Tool use will be demonstrated and the safe handling of tools. The correct safe position for using tools will be demonstrated and children will be required to follow the safety rules.

#### Climbing Trees: (also refer to specific Climbing Risk-Benefit Assessment)



Climbing trees is permitted. Risk assessments will be carried out before sessions to check the areas below for sharp objects and the tree checked for loose branches. Children will be taught how to check if branches are safe to climb.

Rope, String, Paracord: (also refer to specific Rope, Paracord Use Risk-Benefit Assessment)

Children will be encouraged to connect and transport materials but prevented from tying up other children or themselves! If a child has a good idea and wants, for example, to try and build a rope swing, leaders and practitioners will help them and use the opportunity to model appropriate knot tying. All string and rope must be collected up at the end of the session.

Moving Items Around the Site:

The children should be encouraged to roll, lift, drag and pull materials either by hand or using ropes. The safe way to lift, by bending your knees and keeping your back straight should be modelled by all adults. Heavier objects will be rolled, dragged or carried by more people.

Eating and Drinking:

Children will be taught not to eat anything found in the woods/on site through the mantra: 'No picking and no licking'. We will discuss this together so that children are secure in their knowledge. At snack time, before cooking on the fire or preparing food everyone will wash their hands.