

## Play Policy

Last Review Date: September 2023

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.



Benefits of playing at Forest School :

- Forest School offers opportunities to explore rich, diverse natural play environments
- Participants experience challenge and develop self awareness in managing risk according to ability and confidence
- Child-led play at the child's pace

Our Aims

- Willow Banks Forest School aims to provide a variety of natural spaces that provide all our young people with a rich play environment.
- At Willow Banks we are committed to the importance of daily outdoor play and physical development in all young people regardless of their age and stage of development.
- The manager and Directors will support the continued development of training to better enable Willow Banks staff to recognise and understand the value of play as children's self directed learning.
- Staff to use the skills they have learned to better facilitate play at forest school.
- That all staff provide opportunities for children to experience risk taking within a managed environment.
- We welcome children with special educational needs who can participate in appropriate learning and play opportunities at forest school,
- Changes and adaptations can be made to areas of the site, the programme of activities, risk benefit assessments and changes reviewed annually to ensure our young people have a diverse natural play environment to have fun in.
- We recognise the developmental needs of a wide range of SEND children including their need for different types of play and endeavour to meet them within the forest school programme
- To provide effective support and training for all staff, to enable them to provide the best learning environment, building confidence in our young people.
- Young people are provided with both adult-led and child-initiated opportunities to enable them to learn and practice new skills, knowledge and behaviours from the environment.
- Willow Banks will ensure all areas are safe and secure through close supervision and the use of robust risk assessments and safety checks. The Forest School Leader and Staff are informed of the importance of these procedures and are trained appropriately to ensure these procedures are followed effectively.

