Bishop Sutton Pre-School and Forest Club

Charity Registration Number 1172849

12 Forest Club Policy

Aim

We aim to give children and practitioners a shared understanding of the ethos of a Forest School experience. This powerful approach enables young children to be independent, self-motivated, courageous, and considerate and sets them up for life long learning. It particularly supports the development of self-esteem and self-confidence.
There are many important issues to be considered here and we aim to remain true to the Forest School ethos and approach.

Environmental Considerations

Forest Club has environmental awareness at the heart of its ethos. Wherever possible environmentally friendly products and recycle materials should be used when appropriate. Good practice should be modelled by adults showing children that the world in which we live in should be cared for. Involving children in site checks and planning environmental games will help support this.

Health and Safety Considerations

Please refer to the Pre-schools health and safety policy and Safeguarding Children Policy
The Forest Club programme will support young children to develop responsibility for themselves and others. It will even encourage early risk management strategies that will ensure that young children start to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and on others.

Forest Club Leaders and practitioners should regard their duty of care when working with young persons as extremely important. In order to ensure all individuals (children, workers, volunteers) are safe:-

- Everyone involved in Forest Club is fully briefed on health and safety, risk assessment of sites and activities. Staff and volunteers are made aware of the relevant club policies and ensure that they adhere to the guidance contained in them.
- Key members of staff have Safeguarding Children Training and we have a named Child Protection member of staff.
- Forest Club Leaders delivering training will have an Enhanced Criminal Records checks from the Disclosure and Barring Service – DBS.

- Where a volunteer or member of staff does not hold a current DBS certificate then they will not be left unsupervised with children.
- Any concerns about a child's physical or mental wellbeing should be shared with the clubs named Child protection Person, so that the clubs Safeguarding Children policy can then be followed.
- We regard safety and good practice as extremely important and it is the responsibility of individual staff and volunteers to ensure general safety during working.
- Confidentiality should be maintained at all times. Any concerns should only be shared with those who need to know such as the Forest Club Leader or who can then ensure the correct channels are then informed.
- Suitable clothing and footwear must be worn at all times.
- Whistles are worn by the forest club leaders. A long sustained whistle means emergency everyone to gather immediately at the source of the sound.
- Fire is always supervised by a forest club leader when lit and is never left unattended. Safe fire practice is always adhered to.
- Tools and equipment are always locked in the shed when not in use.

Forest Club is underpinned by Bishop Sutton Pre-schools Policies and Procedures.

Everyone involved with the club are fully briefed on the behavioural policy.

Considerations for Equality and Inclusion

In Forest Club sessions all persons should be treated equally.

We aim to and are committed to:

- providing a secure environment in which children can flourish and in which all contributions are valued.
- including and value the contribution of all children and adults to our understanding of equality and diversity.
- make inclusion a thread which runs through all of the activities of Forest Club.

Cancellation Procedure

There may be times when Forest Club sessions have to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances. These may be:-

- Staff illness – which prevents staff / child ratios being met.
- Severe weather conditions.
- Any situation that poses a health and safety risk.

In the event of this situation arising :-

- Cancellation decisions are made as soon as possible and that the families, school, staff and volunteers are contacted via telephone.

We will endeavour to run Forest Club sessions whenever possible, however reserve the right to cancel on the day.

Evaluation Procedure

In order to develop the Forest Club programme and to ensure good practice is maintained we aim to carry out the following evaluations:-

1. Evaluation of session – looking at what dispositions and attitudes are being developed.
2. Evaluation from children.
3. Evaluation from all staff involved in Forest Club.

This policy was adopted by	Bishop Sutton Preschool & Forest Club
On	1st July 2025
Amended on	
Date to be reviewed	AGM 2026
Signed on behalf of the Management Committee	*Sarah Short*
Name of signatory	Sarah Short
Role of signatory	Chair of the Committee
Signed on behalf of the Staff	*Penny Rowlands*
Name of signatory	Penny Rowlands
Role of signatory	Joint Manager