



“Springfield is a caring, supportive and innovative school where everyone is recognised and appreciated as an individual. The golden thread running through our vision is the mental health and wellbeing of our school community. By creating a safe, supportive and relational environment for all, we enable our children to be ambitious and to reach their full potential, so that they can take their place in their community and in the wider world.”

Spring Forest Fire Safety Policy



Campfires are an important part of Forest School and may be used in sessions and extra-curricular activities run at Spring Forest. The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone participating in activities with fires do so safely and with minimum risk to their health and safety.

The Campfire Site

There is a specific campfire area set out in Spring Forest. It consists of

- A fire bowl to enclose the fire and prevent it from spreading
- Seating logs at least 1.5 metres from the fire pit with gaps for access

Pupils are not allowed access to this area without permission while the campfire is in use.

Preparation for the Campfire

It is the role of the Forest School Leader (FSL) to do a risk assessment, identifying any hazards for the campfire and the wider Forest School area, and removing or mitigating risks where possible eg ensuring a bucket of water is at hand if needed to put out the fire and that any equipment used is in good working order.

The Forest School Leader will ensure that there is a fully stocked first aid kit and telephone available for use in an emergency, and at least one currently qualified Paediatric First Aid member of staff is on site throughout the session. Safety equipment - fire gloves, burns kit, fire blanket and water - are to be kept close to hand.

The Forest School Leader will also ensure that the safe and legal ratios of pupils to adults is not exceeded, and that staff are aware of emergency procedures should they be needed.

Families also need to be made aware in advance that children must wear trousers and long sleeves for campfire sessions and long hair must be tied back.

During The Campfire

Fires must only be lit by or under the direct 1:1 supervision of the Forest School Leader in the designated fire circle area and it is always supervised by them. Once lit, the Forest School Leader will not leave the campfire unattended.

Fires are lit using a fire steel - flammable liquids must not be used, and plastics must not be burned. Children are not allowed to throw anything into the fire without express permission.

When children approach the campfire, they must walk around the outside of the seating logs. When they reach their place, they stand behind the log, step over it and sit down on it.

If there is a strong wind, children are to be positioned away from the direct line of smoke and given guidance on how to deal with smoke.

To change seats, children must stand, step over the log so they are outside the log circle, move around the outside to their new place, step over the log so they are inside the circle again and sit down.

Children must never walk cross the inner circle as it brings them too close to the fire.

A ratio of 1:1 for adult supervision is needed for children to cook over the fire. As an additional safeguard, children and adults should kneel on one knee near the fire - The extra stability will prevent them from falling into it.

To feed the fire, additional sticks of wood must be placed carefully from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the flame.

Protective gloves should be worn when fuelling or cooking on the fire.

After the Campfire

The Forest School Leader is responsible for extinguishing the fire at the end of the activity and for ensuring that the remaining ash and/or remains of wood are dispersed/disposed of safely once they have cooled.