**FOREST SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

**Purpose**

This policy sets out our commitment to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all children who attend Re-Betchworth Forest School group. We believe that all children have the right to be safe and protected from harm, and we are committed to providing a safe and supportive environment for them to learn and grow.

**Scope**

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and children who attend our forest school group.

**Policy Statement**

We are committed to:

* Providing a safe and supportive environment for all children.
* Promoting the welfare of all children.
* Protecting children from harm.
* Working in partnership with parents and carers to safeguard children.
* Following all relevant safeguarding legislation and guidance.

**Procedures**

We have a number of procedures in place to safeguard children, including:

* All staff and volunteers are required to undergo enhanced DBS checks.
* Any concerns volunteers have about children will be reported to the Forest School Leader, Clair Cobbold. If the concern is about Clair Cobbold this should be reported directly to the LADO (see below)
* We have a risk assessment process in place to identify and mitigate risks to children.
* Any concerns will be reported to the Surrey Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) 0300 470 9100

**Additional Considerations for Small Forest School Groups**

Due to the nature of forest school activities, there are some additional safeguarding considerations that need to be taken into account by small forest school groups. These include:

* Risk assessments: Risk assessments should be carried out for all forest school activities, and these should be updated regularly.
* Supervision: Children should be supervised closely at all times, and the ratio of staff to children should be appropriate for the activity being undertaken.
* Fire safety: Fire safety procedures should be in place.
* First aid: All staff and volunteers should be trained in first aid.
* Lone working: Lone working should be avoided at all times. If a member of staff needs to work alone, they should check in with another member of staff regularly and have a plan in place for emergencies.

Small forest school groups should also have a plan in place for dealing with emergencies, such as accidents, injuries, and missing children. This plan should be shared with all staff and volunteers. This can be found in our Forest School Handbook.

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