

St Mary's Church Preschool Forest School Fire Policy

Campfires and storm kettles are an important part of Forest School and are used in many sessions. St Mary's Church Preschool aims to ensure that all children and adults participating in Forest School sessions with fires and/or storm kettles do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible.

Location

- Only previously agreed areas will be used for campfires.
- Campfire areas to have turf removed to an area of 0.5 sq. metres. An inner rope signifies the fire area.
- Storm kettles are only used on flat ground and any woodchip or leaf litter must be brushed away before use.

Positioning of Children and Adults

- Fire areas are surrounded by an outer thick rope at least 1.5 metres from the pit.
- When the campfire is in use, children are not permitted to access the area without permission.
- When allowed to access the campfire, children must walk around the outside of the thick rope and wait for permission to sit down. Once permission has been given, they sit with legs tucked up to the rope.
- Children will be taught how to change seats by standing, then walking around the outside of the seating area. *They must never cross the inner area.*
- Children are not allowed to throw anything onto the fire.

Safety and Responsibility

- Only adults are permitted to light fires and then only with permission from the Forest School leader.
- Fires are lit using cotton wool, petroleum jelly and a strike stick.
- No flammable liquids are to be used to light or accelerate fires.
- Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the fire.
- An adult, appointed by the Forest School Leader, should remain in the fire area at all times that the fire is lit.

Extinguishing

- All fires must be extinguished at the end of a session.
- A bucket of water should always be to hand during campfire sessions.
- Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.
- Forest School Leaders, should ensure that any large remains of wood are separated from each other.
- At the end of the session, the fire should be doused down with water and stirred until all the steam and smoke has ceased.
- Large build ups of potash can be avoided by either changing the fire site regularly or by removing the cold ash from the site.

Storm (Kelly) Kettles

- Only adults are to light the fire in the fire pan.
- The storm kettle must be placed on flat clear ground.
- Children must be seated at least 1.5m away from the storm kettle.

- Fuel should burn itself out, but if it doesn't it must be extinguished with water.
 - Storm kettles should never be boiled with the cork in.
- Agreed on behalf of..... St Mary's Church Preschool Ltd
By.....
On