

Health and Safety Policy

Hakeford Woods is committed to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of its staff, clients & volunteers. Hakeford Woods acknowledges however, that much of what we do as an organisation is not risk free, but we firmly believe that the eradication of all risk undervalues the Forest Schools ethos.

It is a fundamental principal of Hakeford Woods' Health & Safety policy that all individuals working with and for Hakeford Woods must cooperate with us to enable our statutory duties to be met and the successful implementation of our policy requires commitment from everyone.

The commitment to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of its staff, clients & volunteers is considered to be a management responsibility equal to that of any other.

Hakeford Woods will take such steps as are reasonably practicable to meet this commitment through;

- Ensuring that there is at least one appropriately qualified first aider in each Forest School session.
- All Forest School Leaders delivering sessions will have an enhanced DBS certificate.
- All volunteers and helpers will have basic DBS certificates as a minimum.
- Staff and volunteers will be made aware of their responsibilities towards the children, understand Hakeford Woods' relevant policies and will adhere to the guidance within them
- Any relevant concerns are made to the Schools Child Protection Officer.
- Ensure that thorough, suitable and sufficient risk assessments and pre-site visits take place before children are permitted on to the site.
- Teaching all members of the party to maintain their own and others health and safety by involving them in the risk assessment process at appropriate opportunities
- Ensuring that sufficient information, instruction, training and supervision is provided to staff, clients & volunteers
- Maintaining the legal adult-child ratio.
- Ensuring that confidentiality is maintained at all times.
- Ensuring that sufficient equipment is available and is fit for purpose.
- Ensuring safe arrangements for the use, handling, storage and transport of articles and substances.
- Ensuring that all staff, children and participants will have the necessary clothing, footwear and equipment to ensure their safety.
- The use of tools and fire will be based on the competence of the user and will be subject to thorough training and assessment. Adult to child ratios will increase to a maximum of 1:8 where tools are being used.
- Ensuring that adequate welfare facilities and arrangements are available.
- Investigating accidents and using the information gathered to inform future risk assessment and policy making.
- Implementing a monitor & review policy to ensure the effective management of health and safety across the activities undertaken by Hakeford Woods.

Approved



Stuart Young (Managing Director)

Adopted on **(24/11/2022)** Review Date **(24/11/2023)**

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