



All Saints CE (VC) First School

Policy on

Weather in Forest School

Date: January 2020

Date reviewed: January 2022

To be reviewed: January 2024

At All Saints First School, Busy Bees and Kingfisher Club we encourage our children to develop spiritually, socially and personally. Participation in Forest School fosters this development.

Aim

This policy sets out to define the weather conditions under which Forest School operates. The policy is based on the school’s vision of a safe, caring, thinking school and applies to every individual in school.

At All Saints First School, Busy Bees and Kingfisher Club we believe children should experience learning in their own environment irrespective of the weather; however, we understand that it is our responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all children and adults. Forest School will operate in a fair and non-discriminatory way in line with All Saints First School Policy on Equal Opportunities.

Designated Forest School Leader














Joanne Jones is the Designated Forest School Leader and is responsible for ensuring that local weather information is up to date prior to each Forest School session. There are very few occasions under which Forest School should be cancelled due to adverse weather. The Forest School Leader will decide which activities will be appropriate according to the weather. The following should be taken into account:

Weather Conditions	Considerations
Hot and Sunny	Children to wear sunhats and sunscreen. Access to water bottles Use available shade or provide shelter (tarpaulins) Sturdy, closed toe shoes required Consider shortening session in extreme heat (27° or higher)
Rain	Children to wear waterproof outer clothing and wellies Provide shelter (tarpaulins) Access to warm drinks Maintain high activity levels through games Light fire for warmth
Wind	Children and adults are not to use the wooded area if the wind exceeds 7 on the Beaufort Scale (see table below) due to the risk of falling branches
Snow	Children to wear warm, waterproof outer clothing, hats and gloves. Wellies to be worn with extra socks Access to warm drinks Maintain high activity levels through games Light fire for warmth Consider shortening session in extreme cold (2° or lower)

Weather Conditions	Considerations
Thunder and Lightning	All staff and children to return to main school building if thunder and lightning is directly overhead
Hail	Use shelter (tarpaulins) until hailstorm has passed

All adults involved in Forest School are expected to dress appropriately for the weather.

Beaufort Scale

Beaufort number	Wind Speed (mph)	Seaman's term		Effects on Land
0	Under 1	Calm		Calm; smoke rises vertically.
1	1-3	Light Air		Smoke drift indicates wind direction; vanes do not move.
2	4-7	Light Breeze		Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; vanes begin to move.
3	8-12	Gentle Breeze		Leaves, small twigs in constant motion; light flags extended.
4	13-18	Moderate Breeze		Dust, leaves and loose paper raised up; small branches move.
5	19-24	Fresh Breeze		Small trees begin to sway.
6	25-31	Strong Breeze		Large branches of trees in motion; whistling heard in wires.
7	32-38	Moderate Gale		Whole trees in motion; resistance felt in walking against the wind.
8	39-46	Fresh Gale		Twigs and small branches broken off trees.
9	47-54	Strong Gale		Slight structural damage occurs; slate blown from roofs.
10	55-63	Whole Gale		Seldom experienced on land; trees broken; structural damage occurs.
11	64-72	Storm		Very rarely experienced on land; usually with widespread damage.
12	73 or higher	Hurricane Force		Violence and destruction.

Prior to commencing any Forest School session, the Forest School Leader is to ensure all children and adults are dressed appropriately.

Clothing for Forest School

Parents will be advised of the requirement to provide appropriate clothing for Forest School. This will include:

- Waterproof outer clothing – jacket and trousers
- Wellies
- Sturdy, closed toe shoes
- Warm hat and gloves
- Sunhat

- Extra socks
- Extra base layers if weather is cold – tights, leggings, t-shirts

This policy was agreed on January 2020

Signed Forest School Leader

Signed.....Headteacher