



Intack Primary School
Forest School Fire Safety Policy
2025-2026

Intack Primary school is committed to working with children, parents and the community to ensure the safety and protection of our Children...

Campfires are an important part of Forest School daily routines and provide a communal and magical experience for children. They are used and linked within learning, listening, singing, life skills such as keeping warm and cooking. They will enrich learners senses with a feeling of warmth, the smell which the flames burn, and the coordination of the flames and burning. In the hopes to capture imagination and continue the daily enthusiasm which the learners should have.

The children at Intack Primary School will learn why it is important to; respect fires, stay safe around fires, the responsibilities we all have whilst a fire is lit, how a fire is made and finally how to safely leave a fire which we have built in Forest School.

Intack Primary School aims to ensure that children and all adults learning within forest schools all understand the rules in making fires and to create a minimal number of risks to their health and others around them.

Location

- Only agreed area will be used for campfires (see site map)
- We have an open fire area with fire bricks, surrounded by fixed benches 2m from the fire pit.
- Only forest school children are allowed in this area on forest school days.
- The positioning of the fire is over 10 metres from one exit and over 12 metres from the other and the need for an adult present around the fire at all times when lit, will ensure that, if any child does approach, who is not part of the session, there is sufficient time to extinguish the fire. There are always at least 2 adults present at forest school.
- Fire areas are surrounded by seating logs 2 metres from the fire pit.
- When the campfire is in use, children are not permitted to access the area without permission. They need to ask, 'May I enter?'
- When allowed to access the campfire, children must walk around the outside of the seating logs and wait for permission to step over. Once permission has been given, they must sit, ensuring legs are drawn into the log and not outstretched.
- Once seated around the campfire, the children must remain seated until directed by an adult to move.
- Children will be taught how to change seats by standing, stepping over the log and then walking around the outside of the seating area. They must never cross the inner area. **NO RUNNING**
- Long sleeves and trousers must always be worn.
- Children are not permitted to throw anything onto the fire.
- Advice on the appropriate way for dealing with smoke will be given to the children: They are advised to turn their head to one side, placing their hand across the face, to close their eyes and count to 30 (or ask an adult/peer to count for them)
- If there is a clear wind direction, seating in the line of smoke is to be avoided.

- If wind direction is variable, the leader should rearrange the seating if at all possible. Fires will not be lit in strong winds.

Safety and Responsibility

1. Lighting and keeping fires burning

When lighting a fire the Forest School Leader will take control of the operation and all accompanying adults will be briefed before we start. **A lit fire will not be left unattended at any point.** A fire may not be lit until it has been confirmed to all that our fire safety equipment is in place. Open fires will be built within a fire square.

- No flammable liquids or plastics will be used in or around the fire
- When sessions involved children adding fuel to the fire must be done with one to one adult supervision
- Water should always be to hand during campfire sessions
- At the end of a session the fire must be extinguished with water until all smoke and steam has ceased
- The bowl will but filled with water
- These items will be essential when a fire is lit; fire blanket, first aid kit, bucket of water, burns kit, heatproof gloves and clean emergency water supply.

2. Fire Risk Assessment (see separate risk assessment and FS Handbook)

- Fires are lit using tinder of various kinds
- No flammable liquids are to be used
- No plastics are to be burnt
- Sticks and wood must be placed on the fire not thrown
- Hands should never go over the fire
- Walk around the seating area of the fire pit, not inside
- Hair should be always tied back

3. Extinguishing fires

- All fires must be extinguished after sessions, not left burning
- Water should always be to hand during sessions
- All fuels should be burnt off to ash, when possible
- FS Leader to ensure all large remains of wood are separated from each other
- It is essential that the fire is doused down with water and all smoke, steam has ceased

4. Education about fire lighting

(fire triangle fuel, fire and oxygen)

- Children will collect tinder for fire, small sticks, dry leaves, bark from the floor
- No living trees, plants should be picked for this
- Tinder should include small, medium and large twigs and sticks and they should possibly all be dry
- FS Leader to explain about the snapping noise for the chosen sticks and which type of twigs are the best for fire lighting. Whereas the bendy, damp twigs which will not help keeping the fire lit. FS leader to talk about the different types of smoke and which twigs help with least smoke.
- FS Leader will have fuel, some kindling, a large piece of dry wood, own supply of sticks, hay and cotton wool (to start the fire)

5. Starting the fire

- Medium pieces of kindling will be placed in the fire pit, creating a waffle shape, cotton wool and hay will be placed on top of this
- Tinder will be lit with a spark from fire striker, the thin twigs will then be needed to add to the fire
- Explaining about starting with the tall thin sticks and gradually increasing in size and width to keep the fire lit.