



## Land and Leaf Collective Saplings at Wilder Doddington

### Saplings Forest School

We offer sessions for small groups of up to eight pupils and 1:1 therapeutic sessions to work with children and young people in outdoor spaces, using activities that support holistic development to boost self esteem and overcome barriers to learning. Programmes are a minimum of one term of 4-hour sessions, targeted at building confidence and resilience in pupils who are struggling in school settings. We support pupils to develop emotional self regulation and increased self-esteem, skills which are transferable to all areas of their life.

### What is Forest School?

Forest School focuses on the holistic development of participants, through exploration and play, engaging people of all ages through long term activities in a woodland setting. We explore the natural world through the changing seasons; learning how we impact upon and are affected by the natural world around us. Getting outdoors we build community through games and activities whilst developing practical skills and knowledge. Through managing risk, problem solving and using their own initiative to work with others, participants establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation. Forest Schools ethos is really about stripping back to more simple ways of working to empower children (and adults) to make positive changes both for themselves and the wider community.

### Where are the sessions?

The sessions take place in a beautiful ancient 500 year old woodland at Strunch Hill Wood, Doddington Estate, Lincoln, LN6 4RU. Sessions take place year round and in all weather conditions. The wood is situated roughly a 10 to 15 minute walk from the car park. Schools or parents/carers must provide transport to sessions for each child.

### When are the sessions?

We offer a weekly session on Tuesdays 10am - 2pm, which is limited to 8 participants. Sessions are charged at £100 per session (£160 with 1:1 support).

Note: 1:1 support is provided by Land and Leaf Collective except in extenuating circumstances.

If a child attending as part of a group is deemed a flight risk additional support must be provided.

### Principles and Criteria for Good Practice

#### Principle One:

Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.

#### Principle Two:

Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.



**Principle Three:**

Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

**Principle Four:**

Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.

**Principle Five:**

Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.

**Principle Six:**

Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning.

### **Clothing requirements**

Please ensure that your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Forest School will take place in all weathers except high winds (40mph or above) or storms. If children are dressed inappropriately they will not be able to enjoy the session and fully experience the sessions.

- Cold weather - loose thin layers that can trap warmth. Warm boots, hats, gloves and a thick outer layer.
- Wet weather - waterproof boots and outer layer. Hat and gloves.
- Hot weather - thin clothes with arms and legs covered if possible i.e. leggings and t-shirt (to protect from scratches etc. Sunhat.

### **Communication**

Communication will be by email except in urgent situations, such as the closure of the group due to high winds or other event, when parties will be contacted by WhatsApp and/or telephone.

General enquiries: [admin@landandleafcollective.org](mailto:admin@landandleafcollective.org)

Finance enquiries: [sam@landandleafcollective.org](mailto:sam@landandleafcollective.org)

Telephone: 07813 079083 / 07856 314295

We provide a therapeutic programme bespoke to participant needs with weekly observations and reflections of each participant; describing engagement levels, social skills and with targeted areas for development. Feedback is given via a termly report.

Children are asked to give ongoing evaluation and feedback through talking, stories and reflective activities. This offers the opportunity for children to be involved in the planning of future activities and sessions.



## POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### HEALTH AND SAFETY

#### Policy Statement

It is the policy of Land and Leaf Collective to comply with the terms of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and subsequent legislation, to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions, equipment and systems of work for all our employees and to provide such information, training and supervision as they need for this purpose.

Land and Leaf Collective also recognises and accepts its responsibility to protect Health & Safety of all visitors to the workplace (including contractors, temporary staff and any members of the public) who might be affected by its activities. The company carries out risk assessments of resources, activities and sites.

Land and Leaf Collective also recognises and accepts its responsibility to protect the health & safety of all its employees, volunteers, contractors, service users and visitors when undertaking activities outside the registered premises. The company will comply with the terms of the Health & Safety policy and procedures of the third party and carry out risk assessments as appropriate.

Land and Leaf Collective will ensure risk assessments are carried out as appropriate to ensure the needs of customers with disabilities and or learning difficulties are met and monitored.

More detailed information and procedures can be found in the WOODLAND SAFETY policy which is shared with all participants and contracting third parties.

A copy of this policy will be issued to all members of staff and the policy will be kept up to date and the way in which it is operated will be reviewed each year. The responsibility for specific arrangements and implementation of the policy lies with the Directors.

### WOODLAND SAFETY

#### Policy Statement

Forest school happens in the same place throughout the year, however as part of the natural environment the space will change through the seasons with different risks and challenges at different times of the year. Children are encouraged to take appropriate risks as part of the forest school sessions. These risks will vary from child to child and session to session. The forest school leader is responsible for identifying and managing dangerous hazards within the sessions. Parents/Carers are responsible for the safety of their child/ren and following the woodland safety policies at all times.

#### Procedure

**NO PICK - NO LICK - CAREFUL HOW YOU CARRY A STICK!**

The woodland is home to a wide variety of plants. Some may be protected, others may be harmful to humans. Children are taught to not pick plants in the woodland to both protect the environment and reduce the chance of cuts, stings and burns.



A number of plants in the woodland are poisonous to humans, including fungus. Some sessions may include foraging for items to eat or cook and children are taught to never eat any plant or fungus from the woodland unless under the close supervision of the forest school leader. Water is provided to wash hands before food consumption.

Sticks are a wonderful resource! They are the basis for much of the participation and play in forest school sessions. Children are taught to carry sticks safely, held low and trailing behind them on the floor.

### Tree Climbing

Tree climbing provides an opportunity to allow children to learn to manage and assess risk. As with any climbing on playground equipment, climbing trees can entail significant risks, resulting in injury or death. Factors increasing risks associated with tree climbing include:

- Climbing above hard surfaces such as stone paths and fences
- Climbing in areas out of sight of a supervising adult
- Taking ropes or other equipment up a tree
- Lack of education for children about tree-climbing risks
- Fighting or dangerous play at height
- Climbing on weak or dead branches.

To ensure safe tree climbing:

- Climbing areas should not be surface-dressed in any way (e.g. with woodchip). Surface-dressing introduces a significant risk in itself by insulating the root system and thereby infecting the roots, weakening the tree and increasing the likelihood of the tree collapsing.
- Adults maintain supervision – more regular for younger children, especially in their first few Forest School sessions.
- Children must check that the ground is clear of any sharp dangers and test weak branches will support their weight, by stepping on it (or grabbing it) at a point far away from the tree's trunk.
- Children should climb with a partner visible and aware so one child may fetch an adult if another gets into any difficulties, with only one child climbing in the tree at any time.
- Children must climb within their capabilities, being aware that coming down can be much harder than getting up. If it doesn't feel right then stop!
- The rule of 3 points of contact must be adhered to; There are four points on your body that come in contact with the tree's branches: two hands and two feet. At least three of these points should be supported by branches at all times.
- Children must not climb into neighbouring trees, over any pond/stream or other water features, or onto branches thinner than the diameter of their leg.
- Clothing must be appropriate and loose items, such as hoods, tucked in.
- Rope and other materials must not be taken up into trees.
- Yew trees must not be climbed as ingesting their leaves or seeds may prove extremely harmful or even fatal.
- Supervising adults may exercise their judgement to intervene if they deem it appropriate to do so.



### Tool Safety

Using tools is an important aspect of forest school as it enables children to learn new skills and develop self confidence. All tools are maintained by the forest school leader and inspected prior to the session to ensure safety. Children and adults are taught how to use each tool safely and respectfully. All tools have specific guidelines for use. Children and adults are responsible for following these guidelines as instructed by the forest school leader. Children and adults will lose permission to use tools if these guidelines are not followed.

- Tools are kept in the tool bag and removed by the forest school leader.
- All tools must be used two arms and a tool length away from other people.
- Knives and bow saws have blade covers which must be replaced when no longer in use.
- All tools must be returned to the forest school leader who will return them to the tool bag.
- All tools must be counted back into the bag at the end of the session.
- A list of tools is kept in the bag for reference.

### Fire Safety

The use of fire is integral to forest school and will often be a component of playgroup sessions. Fires are used for warmth, heating liquids, cooking food and to provide opportunities for children to learn new skills and develop self confidence.

Children are taught how to collect fuel for the fire and are involved in building the fire. An open fire is lit within a fire circle, the boundaries of which are never crossed other than to tend to the fire or reach pots on the fire. The wider fire circle is a place to sit and join communal activities. The outer fire circle is accessed by walking around the perimeter, never within the circle. The lighting and use of fire has specific guidelines as instructed by the forest school leader. Children and adults are responsible for following these guidelines as instructed by the forest school leader. Children and adults will lose permission to use fire if these guidelines are not followed.

- Fire lighting activities only take place within the fire circle.
- Fuel is to be placed carefully onto the fire. Sticks are not held into and removed from the fire.
- Walk carefully around the perimeter of the wider fire circle.
- Fuel is to be laid ready for use a safe distance from the fire.
- Fire gloves to be worn at all times when cooking over the fire.
- Kelly kettle and rocket stove to be used only under close supervision of the forest school leader.
- Young children must be closely supervised in the fire circle area.
- Plunge bucket of water is kept close to the fire circle in case of minor burns or scalds.
- The fire is to be extinguished carefully under supervision of the forest school leader at the end of the session.

### Health and Hygiene

Food preparation may be part of forest school playgroup sessions. Families are encouraged to share food at the end of the session. Health and hygiene and safe food preparation practices are followed in the woodland.

A table is provided for food preparation. The forest school leader cleans the table prior to every session. Soapy water is provided to wash hands and a washing up bowl for dirty pots and utensils.



- Food is to be cut/prepared on the provided chopping boards.
- Parents are asked to prepare only vegan food in the woodland to minimise risks of poisoning from meat and/or dairy products. Cooked meat and pre-prepared dairy is ok.
- Sharp knives are stored in the basket out of reach of children.
- Young children are to be closely supervised when preparing food.
- Hot soapy water is provided to wash up at the end of the session.

### Risks and Benefits Analysis

Assessing and taking appropriate risk is an important aspect of forest school. Children develop confidence and self esteem when they face challenges which they are able to solve and overcome. Children, and adults, face risks in everyday life. Learning to assess and approach risks safely and appropriately is a vital developmental skill for all children.

Risk/benefit assessments are carried out by the forest school leader to ensure safety during the sessions and specific activities. Copies of these risk assessments are available in the forest school leaders pack. The woodland is visually risk assessed by the forest school leader prior to the session to identify any changes to the area and potential hazards.

Children and adults are made aware of any hazards and advised how to proceed by the forest school leader. It is the responsibility of parents/carers to supervise their child/ren when undertaking risky activities.

## EXCLUSION POLICY: VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

### Purpose

At Land and Leaf Collective, we are dedicated to providing a safe and nurturing environment where children and young people can explore, learn, and grow in harmony with nature. Acts of violence are incompatible with these values and can disrupt the sense of community and safety essential for outdoor learning. This policy outlines our approach to addressing incidents of violence and ensuring appropriate consequences.

We understand that some individuals may display challenging behaviours due to sensory overload or other additional needs. Where behaviour is assessed to be non-deliberate or linked to sensory processing difficulties, staff will manage incidents using our Behaviour Policy, employing calm, gentle de-escalation strategies.

### Policy Overview

This policy follows a "two strikes and you're out" principle. Any individual involved in two verified incidents of violence will face permanent exclusion, as detailed in the guidelines below.

### Definition of Violence

In the context of Land and Leaf Collective, violence is defined as any physical behavior intended to cause harm, intimidation, or distress to another participant, staff member, or volunteer. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Hitting, kicking, biting, or other physical assaults
- Threatening behaviour intended to intimidate
- Use of objects as weapons



## Policy Guidelines

### First Incident

Staff will conduct a thorough investigation of the reported incident, ensuring a fair and accurate understanding of events.

- Parents or guardians of the individual involved will be informed and consulted if applicable.
- A formal warning will be issued.
- The individual may receive additional support such as mentoring, conflict resolution activities, or behavioural interventions to promote positive engagement.
- The incident and outcomes will be documented.

### Second Incident

- Following a second confirmed incident of violence, staff will conduct another detailed investigation.
- A meeting will be arranged to discuss the findings and next steps with the individual and their parents or guardians if applicable.
- Permanent exclusion from Land and Leaf Collective programmes will be enforced after due process is completed.

### Immediate Exclusion for Extreme Violence

In cases of extreme violence, where an individual purposely attempts to cause serious harm to a staff member, participant, or volunteer, exclusion will take immediate effect after the first incident. Examples include, but are not limited to, deliberate attempts to inflict injury with hands, feet, or objects.

In these cases:

- Emergency services (999) will be contacted immediately.
- Staff will follow the organisation's Evacuation Policy to safely remove other participants from the vicinity.
- A full incident report will be completed and shared with parents/guardians if applicable.

### Forest School Setting and Additional Safeguarding Measures

Land and Leaf Collective operates within a woodland environment as a Forest School. Due to the nature of the setting, which includes large sticks, trunks, branches, and other natural hazards, it is not possible to clear the area or remove these potential risks during incidents. Therefore, children or participants with a known history of violent behaviour will not be accepted into Land and Leaf Collective programmes.

This is necessary to protect the safety and wellbeing of all participants and staff in a woodland environment where improvised weapons can be readily accessible.

### Appeals Process

Parents or guardians can submit a written appeal within 7 days of the exclusion decision. A Director of the organisation will review appeals and make a final decision.

### Support Measures

To proactively prevent violence, Land and Leaf Collective emphasises teaching respect for others and the natural environment as core values, encouraging cooperation and teamwork through outdoor activities.



### Review and Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with Land and Leaf Collective's principles and best practices.

### Conclusion

Through this policy, Land and Leaf Collective aims to safeguard a peaceful and welcoming atmosphere where all participants can feel safe, respected, and inspired by their time in the natural world.

## BEHAVIOUR

### Policy Statement

Children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met and where there are clear and developmentally appropriate expectations for their behaviour. Children need to learn to consider the views and feelings, needs and rights of others and the impact that their behaviour has on people, places and objects. This is a developmental task that requires support, encouragement, teaching and setting a good example. The child's dignity should be maintained at all times.

We are committed to promoting equality, inclusion, and respect for diversity, ensuring that all children, regardless of race, gender, ability, or background, are treated equally and fairly within our programs. In accordance with the Children Act 1989 and 2004, we aim to promote the well-being and safety of all children, ensuring their needs are met through positive strategies and a supportive environment.

All parents are provided with a copy of this policy and given the opportunity to discuss our approaches to behaviour management. Parents are expected to encourage and reinforce nurturing behaviour, to be positive role models and follow this procedure with their own and other children attending Land and Leaf Collective programmes.

### Procedure

Land and Leaf Collective uses positive strategies for managing inconsiderate behaviour, by helping children to find solutions in ways that are appropriate for the children's ages and stages of development. Such solutions might include the acknowledgement of feelings, an explanation about what was not acceptable about their behaviour and supporting children to understand and gain control of their feelings so that they can learn a more appropriate response.

We have very few rules in our setting but we do expect all adults and children to accept them. The ground rules are:

- We will all care for ourselves - we will not do anything that puts ourselves at risk.
- We will all care for each other - we will not do anything that puts anyone else at risk nor will we behave in a way that hurts others emotionally.
- We will all care for the environment - we will not do anything that damages the trees, plants, woodland inhabitants or forest school resources. We will be responsible for the continued improvement to our environment.

Children in forest school sessions are supported to establish appropriate ground rules for play within their group and to discuss what they feel are appropriate ground rules.



Strategies that we use for maintaining ground rules and managing challenging or inconsiderate behaviour include:

- Explaining, discussing and maintaining the boundaries of behaviour for children in the woodland.
- Acknowledging considerate behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share.
- Supporting each child to develop self-esteem, confidence and feelings of competence.
- Supporting each child to develop a sense of belonging in the group, so that they feel valued and welcome.
- We avoid creating situations in which children receive attention only in return for inconsiderate behaviour.
- When children behave in inconsiderate ways, we help them to understand the outcomes of their actions and support them in learning how to cope more appropriately.
- Children are never sent away from the group by themselves or use a 'naughty' chair.
- We never use physical punishment, such as smacking or shaking. Children are never threatened with these.
- We do not use techniques intended to single out and humiliate individual children.
- Physical restraint will only be used in the event of an immediate risk of harm to the child or others and only by trained staff. All instances of physical restraint will be documented and reviewed to ensure the safety and well-being of all children.
- In any cases of serious misbehaviour, such as racial or other abuse, we immediately make clear the unacceptability of the behaviour and attitudes, by means of explanations rather than personal blame and will be dealt with in accordance with our Safeguarding Policy, ensuring a prompt and appropriate response.
- We do not shout or raise our voices in a threatening way to respond to a child's inconsiderate behaviour.
- We recognise that very young children are unable to regulate their own emotions, such as fear, anger or distress, and require gentle support to help them do this.
- Common inconsiderate or hurtful behaviours of young children include tantrums, biting or fighting. We remain calm, patient and offer comfort to intense emotions. We help children to manage their feelings and talk about them to help resolve issues and promote understanding.
- If tantrums, biting or fighting are frequent, we will try to find out the underlying cause – such as a change or upheaval at home.
- We do not engage in punitive responses to a young child's rage.
- We support social skills through modelling behaviour, activities, and stories. We aim to build self-esteem and confidence in all children, recognising their emotional needs through a close and committed relationship with them.
- We support children to understand the effect that their hurtful behaviour has had on another child; We do not force children to say sorry, but encourage this when it is clear that they are genuinely sorry and wish to show this to the person they have hurt.
- If hurtful behaviour becomes problematic, we will work with parents/carers to identify the cause and find a solution together.
- We recognize the importance of mental health and well-being for all children. We aim to support children in developing emotional resilience and coping strategies, providing appropriate interventions where necessary, and working closely with parents and relevant professionals.



- Bullying, including physical, emotional, or verbal abuse, will not be tolerated under any circumstances. Incidents of bullying will be addressed promptly, and steps will be taken to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all children.

## ANTI BULLYING

### Statement

Land and Leaf Collective is committed to providing a supportive, caring and safe environment in which all children are free from the fear of being bullied. As an organisation we take bullying and its impact seriously. Bullying of any form is not tolerated in our organisation, whether carried out by a child or an adult.

Staff, children and parents or carers will be made aware of our position on bullying. Bullying behaviour is unacceptable in any form. Anyone who knows that bullying is happening is expected to tell a forest school leader or other responsible adult.

Any child who is a victim of bullying will be dealt with in a sympathetic manner. If bullying is suspected or reported, the incident will be dealt with immediately by the member of staff informed, and then discussed with the directors. A clear account of the incident will be recorded. All facilitators will be informed and all parties will be closely monitored. Parents of all parties will be informed.

### What is bullying?

We recognise that many children and young people will experience conflict in their relationships with other children and young people. We are committed to developing empathy and the skills to manage relationships in a peaceful way that does not harm others.

Bullying is:

***“The repetitive, intentional hurting of one person or group by another person or group, where the relationship involves an imbalance of power. It can happen face to face or online”***



### Why is it important to respond to bullying?

There is considerable evidence to show that bullying has both short term and longer term impact on children. Bullying impacts on children's wellbeing, can impact on self esteem and become a significant barrier to learning. Bullying is associated with lower levels of engagement and can lead to mental health concerns such as anxiety and depression. At Land and Leaf Collective we understand that people who bully also need help and support to understand the cause of their behaviour and to make positive changes.

In our community:



- Everybody has the right to be treated with respect.
- Everybody has the right to feel happy and safe.
- No-one deserves to be a target of bullying.
- People who bully need support to learn different ways of behaving.

National research has shown that some groups of pupils are particularly vulnerable to bullying; these include pupils with SEND, looked after children, pupils from minority ethnic groups or faiths, young carers, LGBT pupils and those perceived to be LGBT. At Land and Leaf Collective we are committed to anti-discriminatory practices.

### Types of bullying behaviour

Bullying can take many forms:

- **Emotional** - being unfriendly, excluding, tormenting, threatening behaviour
- **Verbal** - name calling, sarcasm, spreading rumours, teasing, use of derogatory language
- **Physical** - pushing, kicking, hitting, punching or any use of violence
- **Extortion** - demanding money/goods with threats
- **Online** – use of social media, messaging and calls. Misuse of associated technology e.g. photos and videos.
- **Racist** - racial taunts, graffiti, gestures
- **Sexual** - unwanted physical contact, sexually abusive comments
- **Homophobic** or biphobic - bullying because of sexuality or perceived sexuality
- **Transphobic** – because of gender identity or perceived gender identity

### Preventing Bullying

We foster a clear understanding that bullying, in any form, is unacceptable. We believe that preventing bullying is the responsibility of our whole community and when there are incidents of bullying we will work together to deal with the situation and to learn from what has happened.

We do this by:

- Involving the wider community in developing our policy including a child friendly version of our policy.
- Using circle time to ensure that participants understand the differences between relational conflict and bullying.
- Building a positive ethos based on respecting and celebrating all types of difference in our community.
- Creating a safe and happy environment, with consequent positive relationships.
- Having a positive ethos that all leaders, staff, parents and participants understand.
- Think about any safeguarding concern and report concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.
- Adopting a social model approach to bullying. Diversity is valued and everyone is included in our community.
- Offering training to all staff around bullying, including specific guidance on those groups who are most likely to be bullied.



## Reporting bullying

In our community participants are encouraged to talk to staff when they are unhappy or have concerns. Participants in our forest school programmes understand that they have a right to feel and be safe and a responsibility to support others to feel and be safe.

Pupils are encouraged to report bullying to:

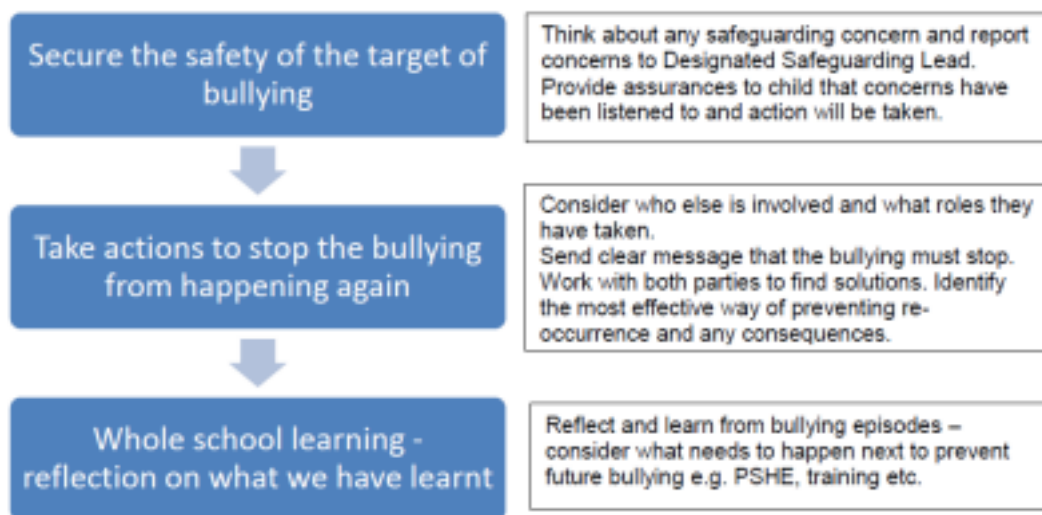
- A trusted adult
- Their forest school leader

Children are also taught that it is important to talk to a trusted adult if bullying is taking place outside of Land and Leaf Collective.

Parents are also encouraged to report concerns and bullying to named individuals. This is normally the forest school leader.

When participants report their concerns our staff are trained to LISTEN and to BELIEVE. We involve children as far as possible in finding solutions.

## Responding to Bullying



We monitor and review all bullying incidents to determine any patterns or trends that may require further action.

On a regular basis we give pupils the opportunity to feedback on how safe and happy they feel at forest school, we do this through circle time.

All staff are required to complete a bullying and prejudice-based incident reporting and monitoring form when dealing with incidents of bullying. This should be completed as soon as possible and given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead.



## LOCKDOWN AND EVACUATION POLICY

### Policy Statement

Land and Leaf Collective Community Interest Company (CIC) is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of all participants, staff, and volunteers during sessions held in our woodland setting. This policy outlines procedures for lockdown and evacuation in case of an emergency, whether it be a threat within the woodland, an external danger, or natural hazards.

This policy applies to all participants, including children, families, staff, and volunteers.

### Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to ensure the safety and well-being of all individuals participating in activities organised by Land and Leaf Collective CIC, including children, families, staff, and volunteers, in the woodland setting. This policy outlines clear procedures for responding to emergency situations that may require lockdown or evacuation, such as threats within the woodland, external dangers, or natural hazards. By establishing these procedures, the policy aims to provide a structured and effective response to emergencies, ensuring that all individuals can be swiftly and safely guided through the appropriate actions during times of crisis. The overall goal is to create a safe and secure environment for all involved, while also fostering confidence that, in the event of an emergency, proper measures will be in place to protect everyone's health and safety.

### Definition of Terms

- Lockdown: A protective action taken in response to an immediate threat where it is safer to remain in place rather than evacuate.
- Evacuation: The process of moving participants out of the woodland to a designated safe area due to an emergency that cannot be managed on-site.

### Roles and Responsibilities

- Forest School Leader(s): Responsible for leading any evacuation or lockdown procedure, ensuring headcounts, managing communication with emergency services, and ensuring the safety of all participants.
- Support Staff/Volunteers: Assist the Forest School Leader in managing the groups, ensuring participants are safe and calm, and supporting any evacuation or lockdown as directed.
- Participants (Children/Families): Must follow instructions from staff promptly and calmly during any emergency procedure.

### Risk Assessment

Before every session, the Forest School Leader conducts a risk assessment of the woodland area, identifying any potential hazards, including weather conditions, wildlife, or human activity that may require evacuation or lockdown.



## Lockdown Procedures

### Triggers for Lockdown:

- An external threat such as intruders, aggressive animals, or individuals acting dangerously.
- Severe weather or other natural hazards that make evacuation unsafe.
- A nearby emergency that poses an indirect threat to the woodland area (e.g., fire or criminal activity in proximity).

### Lockdown Procedure:

1. Alert: The Forest School Leader will use a predetermined signal:
  - Signal for family groups: 3 sharp whistle blows signalling to immediately gather in the fire circle area. Once gathered at the fire circle, the Forest School Leader will complete a register for all participants (adults and children) using an electronic register (stored on a company mobile phone). Once all children have been accounted for, staff attendance will also be verbally taken.
  - Signal for Saplings Alternative Provision: Radio code 'BRAVO BRAVO BRAVO' alerts all staff of the lockdown and signals that they must gather all participants immediately at the fire circle. En route to the fire circle area, the Forest School Leader will take attendance via radio. The Forest School Leader will state one child's name at a time and the corresponding adult with that child will respond 'Check'. Once gathered at the fire circle, the Forest School Leader will complete an electronic register (stored on a company mobile phone) register for all participants. Once all children have been accounted for, attendance for visitors and staff will also be verbally taken.
2. Gathering and Shelter:

Participants will be instructed to gather in the designated shelter area(s) [fire circle area]. If there is no pre-existing shelter, participants should be moved to the most secure and hidden area in the woodland (e.g., dense tree coverage or dips in the landscape).
3. Stay Low and Quiet:

Participants will be instructed to stay low, keep calm, and remain quiet. Staff will maintain communication with participants and ensure children and vulnerable individuals are calm.
4. Maintain Contact:

The Forest School Leader will maintain contact with emergency services through mobile phone or radio if necessary. The leader will always carry a fully charged mobile phone during sessions.
5. Duration:

The lockdown will remain in place until the threat is neutralised or emergency services advise that it is safe to return to regular activities.
6. Communication with Families (During Family Sessions):

If families are present, parents will be kept informed by the Forest School Leader throughout the lockdown. In family sessions, parents will be encouraged to help keep their children calm.
7. For children who receive 1:1 adult support: A personalised evacuation and lockdown plan can be found in their individual risk assessments. The 1:1 adult supporting the child will be fully aware of the personalised evacuation and lockdown plan and will take primary responsibility for implementing it, overseen by the Forest School Leader. If, for any reason, it is not possible or suitable to bring the child to the designated meeting point, the 1:1 adult will follow the plan to ensure the child's safety, managing the situation and providing the necessary care and support throughout.



## Evacuation Procedures

### Triggers for Evacuation:

- Fire or smoke within the woodland.
- A medical emergency requiring immediate professional assistance.
- Dangerous weather conditions (e.g., high winds, lightning, flooding).
- Wildlife threat or other natural hazards.
- External threats that cannot be mitigated by lockdown (e.g., nearby fire, chemical spill).

### Evacuation Procedure:

1. Alert:  
The Forest School Leader will use a loud, clear signal (e.g., three short whistle blasts) to indicate the need for immediate evacuation.
2. Headcount:  
Support staff and volunteers will gather their assigned group, perform an immediate headcount, and report to the Forest School Leader to ensure no one is missing. Headcounts should be done frequently, especially when moving between areas. The Forest School Leader will take attendance via radio using the electronic register (stored on a company mobile phone) register. The Forest School Leader will state one child's name at a time and the corresponding adult with that child will respond 'Check'.
3. Evacuation Route:  
The designated evacuation route will be communicated to all participants at the start of each session. Participants will be led calmly and swiftly by the Forest School Leader to the designated safe meeting point outside the woodland (The Grain Store Car Park) via whichever is the safest route.
4. Communication with Emergency Services:  
The Forest School Leader will notify emergency services of the evacuation and meet them at the designated safe area if necessary.
5. Emergency Kit:  
Emergency kit will be carried by the Forest School Leader, containing:
  - A fully charged mobile phone.
  - First aid kit (stored in the kitchen shelter area).
  - Emergency contact information for participants (electronic register (stored on a company mobile phone).
6. Reuniting with Families (For Children's Sessions):  
Once evacuated, the Forest School Leader will follow the pre-established emergency contact protocol to ensure all children are safely reunited with their parents or guardians.

### Post-Incident Procedure

After any lockdown or evacuation, the Forest School Leader will:

1. Conduct a debrief with staff and participants to evaluate the effectiveness of the procedure and to provide reassurance.



2. Contact parents or guardians (if applicable) to provide a full report of the incident.
3. Review and update the risk assessment and procedures as necessary.
4. Report the incident to relevant authorities if required.

### Training and Drills

- All Forest School staff and volunteers will receive annual training on lockdown and evacuation procedures.
- Drills will be conducted once per term with participants to ensure they are familiar with signals and actions required.
- Staff will practice lockdown and evacuation procedures specific to both children's and family sessions.

## ILLNESS POLICY

### Purpose

At Land and Leaf Collective CIC, the health and well-being of our children, staff, and parents is our top priority. We are committed to creating a safe and healthy environment where everyone can enjoy outdoor learning and activities. In order to maintain a clean and healthy environment, we ask that children and adults refrain from attending sessions if they are sick or displaying signs of illness.

We aim to:

- Identify and manage sick children and adults as quickly as possible.
- Ensure everyone understands the procedures for illness and illness-related absences.
- Protect everyone from the spread of preventable infections.

This policy is based on guidance from the NHS and UK Government to ensure the continued health and safety of everyone involved in our Forest School sessions.

### Scope

This policy applies to all staff, volunteers, and participants at the Forest School. It covers the procedures for handling, storing, and replacing water used for drinking and handwashing.

### Procedure

At Land and Leaf Collective CIC, the health and well-being of all children, adults, and staff are of utmost importance. We ask parents and guardians to assess whether their child is fit to attend a session if they are unwell, as it is their responsibility to ensure their child's health and comfort.

If a child or adult is unwell with a contagious illness, they should not attend the session. Upon arrival at the Forest School, if the Forest School leader suspects that a child may be unwell, they will assess the child's condition in a kind and caring manner. We understand the childcare needs of parents and guardians and will not send children home unnecessarily. However, the decision to send a child home due



to illness or infection lies with the Forest School leader and will be based on the child's needs and the safety of others in the group.

Any child with an infectious or contagious illness will be asked not to attend the session for a certain period of time. If staff suspect a child has a contagious condition, they will advise parents to consult a doctor before returning.

If a child becomes unwell during a session, the parent or emergency contact will be called, and the child should be collected within one hour if possible. The child will be cared for in a safe, dry, and warm space until collection.

Staff will immediately inform parents or carers if they have concerns about a child's health or well-being. Parents and carers are responsible for keeping Land and Leaf Collective informed about their child's health.

Land and Leaf Collective is committed to providing the highest standards of care and ensuring that the health and wellbeing of all participants are maintained at all times.

For more guidance on if your child is well enough to attend a Forest School session please follow this NHS information: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

### Head Injuries

If a child sustains a head injury during a Forest School session, the following steps will be taken:

1. **Immediate Action:** The child will be assessed for any signs of serious injury (e.g., loss of consciousness, dizziness, confusion). A cold compress will be applied for minor bumps or bruises.
2. **Monitoring:** The child will be closely observed for 20–30 minutes for symptoms like nausea, vomiting, dizziness, or confusion. If any serious symptoms appear, emergency services will be contacted.
3. **Parent Notification:** Parents will be informed immediately of the injury and given details on how it occurred and the actions taken.
4. **Emergency Care:** If symptoms are severe, emergency services will be called, and the child will be kept still and calm until help arrives.
5. **Post-Injury Care:** The child should rest and avoid physical activities. Parents will be advised to monitor for any delayed symptoms.
6. **Documentation:** All head injuries will be logged in an accident form which will be signed by the first aider on site and parents. Parents will receive a copy of this.

### Administering Medication

Statutory guidance for childcare settings states that medicines must not usually be administered unless they have been prescribed for a child by a doctor, dentist, nurse or pharmacist and that medicines containing aspirin should only be given if prescribed by a doctor. Ideally all medicines should be given by the child's parents. Land and Leaf Collective staff will only administer, or in the case of older children who can self administer, medicines if absolutely necessary. Before requesting Land and Leaf Collective staff



administer/oversee medicine to your child, please consider if there is an alternative. If Land and Leaf Collective are to administer/oversee medicine, an Administration of Medicine Consent Form must be completed before the session and medicine given to the Forest School Leader to supervise until it is administered and only returned to parents at the end of the session during pick-up. Children should not have access to their own medication at any time.

## PRIVACY POLICY

### Data Collection and Sharing

Land and Leaf Collective is committed to protecting your privacy. This statement explains how we use any information you give to us and the ways in which we protect your privacy. We ask you to read it carefully. We may be required to change it from time to time so we also ask you to check it occasionally to make sure you are aware of the latest version.

### How we comply with The Data Protection Act (1998/2018) and GDPR (2016)

We treat any personal information (which means data from which you can be identified, including your name, address, e-mail address, etc.) that you provide us, or that we obtain from you, in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act. Under this Act, we have a legal duty to protect any information we collect from you. Any amendments to this policy will continue to be in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1998.

### How we collect information

When you attend Forest School sessions with Land and Leaf Collective we receive information about you and any children who attend in a number of different ways.

You may give us the information when you:

- Attend, or enquire about, regular sessions at Land and Leaf Collective
- Attend, or enquire about, a holiday club with us
- When you sign up to our mailing list or waiting lists
- When you let us know about a change in your personal circumstances (for example, if you change your name when you get married or move house).
- We may receive it from another organisation, for example, should we be required to work with the local council or other local organisation.

### How we use personal data

We use information that we have about you and your children for the running of Land and Leaf Collective. These generally fall into the following areas.

**1. Administration** – This applies to past, current and potential future children and their parents / guardians.

The types of personal information we collect and use include:

- The personal details of you/your child;
- The payment of fees due;
- Details of the child's family (so we can contact in case of an emergency)



- Medical information (so we can cater for any special needs)
- Accident records in case of minor injuries.

**2. Keeping you informed** – This applies to current, past and potential future children and their parents / guardians.

We use this information to keep you updated about events at Land and Leaf Collective, for example, to let you know about news, upcoming events and changes to courses..

The types of information we collect and use include:

- Email address. So we can email you updates and newsletters.

Note: The mailing list is an 'opt-in' subscription and you can opt out of receiving email updates at any time.

#### How long we store your information

We store information on participants for the duration of attendance. This may be one day for holiday clubs or longer for ongoing programmes. The information held on site during sessions includes emergency contacts and medical information. This is held so that it is easily accessible in case of emergency. Paper records are held in locked storage and destroyed at the end of each session or term, depending on the duration of the programme. Accident records are stored securely for three years. We have to do this to meet the legal requirements of accident recording.

#### When we share your information

Generally, we only use your information within Land and Leaf Collective. We will never share your contact details for marketing purposes. We ask for your permissions to share data in these circumstances.

There are rare occasions when we need to share personal information about you/your child with third parties. These are:

- We may receive requests for information from schools, government departments, the police and other enforcement agencies. If there is a proper legal basis for sharing your personal information, we will provide it to the organisation that is asking for it.
- In case of an emergency, we may need to share with the emergency services details of your child including details of any medical conditions as provided to us by you.
- In partnership work with other organisations we may need to share copies of accident reports to comply with legal requirements.

#### Where we store personal data

We use third party data processors, these are secure online systems and any personal information shared with us is stored securely for necessary use by Land and Leaf Collective.

The following systems are in use and their privacy statements and policies can be found below.



- **Dropbox:** An online cloud-based storage system, is used for necessary data storage including personal information when relevant. Dropbox [terms of service](#) statement: "When you use our Services, you provide us with things like your files, content, messages, contacts and so on ("Your Stuff"). Your Stuff is yours. These Terms don't give us any rights to Your Stuff except for the limited rights that enable us to offer the Services." Dropbox privacy policy can be found [here](#).
- **Google drive:** Google drive, an online cloud-based storage system, is used for necessary data storage including personal information when relevant. Google Drive [terms of service](#) state, "You retain ownership of any intellectual property rights that you hold in that content. In short, what belongs to you stays yours." Google privacy policy can be found [here](#).
- **Mailing lists:** When we contact you via a mailing list we use an external platform called [Mailchimp](#) and their privacy policy can be found [here](#). You can opt out of receiving mailing list emails at any time.
- We use a booking system called **Pembee** to take and manage bookings. Bookwhen's privacy policy can be found [here](#).

#### Where we process your data

As we use third party storage systems (detailed above), personal information may be stored in servers outside of the United Kingdom. We will only use your personal information in the United Kingdom.

#### Our Commitment to data protection

We will process your personal information in line with the Data Protection Act. This means that we will:

- Only collect and hold information about you which we need for some reason;
- Keep your personal information up to date and accurate (to help us do this, please let us know if any of your details change);
- Take appropriate steps to protect your personal information from being used without permission, or illegally, and to safeguard your rights; and
- Destroy your personal information in a secure way once we no longer need it.

#### Your rights over your personal information

You have certain rights over your personal information under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2016. Most importantly, you have a right to ask for a copy of all the personal information we hold about you but there are some legal exceptions to this, such as information which is confidential to Land and Leaf Collective. If you would like a copy of your personal information, you can contact us at [hello@landandleafcollective.org](mailto:hello@landandleafcollective.org)