

What is KINDA FOREST SCHOOL?

Kinda Forest School is a Forest School with a difference.

It's centered on the principles of Kindness, Forest School and Permaculture and aims to provide children with a different and holistic experience of education, enabling them to:

- Learn to build community
- Work with and within nature; embedding a long term plan for a productive sustainable woodland
- Use varying tools and space in nature to connect to and express their natural abilities and feel a sense of belonging. Developing social, emotional and physical skills

Community

Kinda Forest School gently supports children and young people to create, in their own time, strong, fair and equal communities, by bringing kindness, cooperation and democracy central to the sessions. Using consensus decision-making would be an example of this.

Sustainability

Kinda Forest School encourages a community of resourcefulness and learning. Using Permaculture Principles, imitating the natural ecosystem, we work with the children and young people to embed a long term plan to develop a productive and sustainable woodland, inspired by the web of beneficial interactions that exist between plants and animals.

Connection

Alongside forest school child-led activities, which could involve building, whittling, crafting, storytelling, singing, climbing and cooking on the fire, we use an approach based on kindness and compassion. This will support each participant to strengthen their sense of self and their emotional resilience. We work with nature to build a creative, productive environment in which each participant will find their place, suited to them. This could include, for example, designing a method to capture water, building a beehive or planting a forest garden.

Over time the children and young people can share the care and sustainable management of this very special place with their families.

Kinda Education stands for equality, kindness and reconnection with each other and with nature. By taking these values into the world of education we can begin a journey of facilitating kindness, democracy and connection to nature to our own communities.

What Happens if...

...Someone gets hurt

Leaders at Kinda Forest School are qualified First Aiders. If a child is given First Aid parents will be informed as soon as possible after the event using emergency contact procedures if necessary (see below) and through our incident reporting procedure.

...My child needs to take medicine

If you require a Forest School facilitator to administer/ supervise your child in the administration of medicine (prescribed or otherwise) you will need to complete and submit a Medicine Administration Consent form (available on request). Times and dates of administration will be recorded and kept for reference.

...There is an Emergency Situation

In case of emergency, our aim is to keep all children and adults as safe as possible.

We will inform parents/ carers as soon as possible if any child is involved in an emergency situation, injured to the degree that they need to be administered 1st aid, or at child's request if feeling unwell.

Emergency Contact information should be updated at the beginning of every new programme.

This information is kept accessible to Leaders at all times during a Forest School session.

It is the parents' responsibility to inform Forest School staff of any change in contact details.

In the case of injury or an emergency we will follow up contact in conversation or via email to further inform and advise if needs be. We may ask for further information to inform our Incident Report.

...A Session is Cancelled

There are a range of unforeseen circumstances in which, a Forest School session may need to be cancelled.

As far in advance as possible, we will inform parents individually by email, phone and posting an announcement on the Facebook page.

There may be occasions when we need to cancel and children are already on site. If this happens we will contact parents using emergency procedures (see above) and arrange a suitable meeting point. We will supervise children until parents arrive to collect them.

If a session is cancelled for any reason, we may reschedule or you may wish to be reimbursed for that session. We will be in touch to see what works best for you.

...You need to cancel

If a parent/guardian needs to cancel a booking for any reason, they must let us know as soon as they can and we will do what we can to reimburse them. However, we do require that parent/guardian give us enough advance notice to offer places to other learners: a minimum of 3 weeks in advance of the programme start date.

...You Cannot Attend

It is helpful for us to know in advance if a learner will not be attending a session

If you know in advance that your child will not be attending a session, please contact us (see below for details). .

..Parents want to take photos or do not want photo or video of your child

We are aware that parents/guardians may want to take photos of activities/their own children when attending Forest School. We ask that you check with us and your children first, and please aim only to take photos of your own children. If there are any other people in the photo, please ensure that these photos are not shared unless you have express consent from them/ their parents/guardians.

If it is noted that any adult is using photographic/ communications technology in secret/ without approval, this may become a safeguarding issue. In regards to protecting their own integrity, we advise parents/guardians not to take photos of children unless an Forest School facilitator is present.



There is a Safeguarding Concern

All Forest School Leaders have up-to-date enhanced DBS checks and undergo statutory Safeguarding training every 2 years. All regular volunteers are DBS checked/ risk assessed and will undertake in-house safeguarding training.

Kinda Forest School Safeguarding Leader is ELOISE WILKINSON

Safeguarding Policy

We have a duty of care that extends beyond the immediate Forest School context. If we have any concerns regarding a learner's personal welfare we will deal with this as immediately and sensitively as possible, working with relevant external agencies following the advice outlined in the government guidelines for 'Working Together to Safeguard Children' (2015).

Although all staff and regular volunteers at Kinda Forest School are registered with the DBS, it is not possible to ensure that all adults attending will be. Sadly this means that we have to ask all adults attending (including parents) to be aware of safeguarding issues and protect their integrity by avoiding spending time alone with children other than their own.

If an allegation is made against any adult/ child attending, including parents, volunteers and staff, this will immediately be addressed following procedures advised by LADO (Local Authority Designated Officer) referrals through the Suffolk Safeguarding Children's Board.

Safeguarding Procedures

In case of concern

If any staff member/ volunteer/ parent at Forest School has any concerns regarding the welfare or behaviour of a child/ adult attending, it is their duty to report this to ELOISE WILKINSON as Safeguarding Leader. The concerned adult and ELOISE WILKINSON will discuss the issue as soon as is appropriate and observations will be noted on an incident report sheet. Observations will be treated as confidential and only to be shared with other relevant safeguarding authorities. The concerned adult must not discuss this in any detail with others, although other staff will be informed that there may be a concern. Incident reports will be kept in the individual child's file for future reference/ to add to if needs be. If appropriate, ELOISE WILKINSON will contact safeguarding authorities for advice. If there is a concern about adult conduct, the individual in question will be immediately suspended until the situation has been assessed.

In case of disclosure: If any child expresses a wish to talk to an FS adult in private/ confidence, this should be respected and the opportunity for them to do so should be provided as soon as possible. The adult should suggest a place to talk that is private but in view of KFS Staff.

Advice from the NSPCC:

- Listen carefully. Avoid overt reaction/ expressing own views.

Do ask the child to 'Tell, Explain, Describe' (TED)

Do not ask leading questions/ press for further info.

- Tell them they have done the right thing by talking about it. Reassure them. Tell them it is not their fault.
- Tell them that you believe them (especially important in cases of reported abuse).
- Explain that you have a 'duty of care' and that you will need to pass the information on to someone who can help (Mell Harrison who will know what to do). Tell Mell Harrison or Louisa Yallop as soon as you can and complete an incident report form - giving factual evidence only (i.e. exactly what happened when the child was talking to you and exactly what was said).
- Do not talk to anyone else (apart from the safeguarding leads / safeguarding authorities on request) about what has been said

Points of Contact

Eloise Wilkinson or Mell Harrison

Safeguarding Leads at Kinda forest school - Tel: 07760161755

email: Eloise.wilkinson@gmail.com

MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) advice line- 0345 606 1499

Suffolk Safeguarding Children Board - www.suffolkscb.org.uk (call 0808 800 4005 to make a referral)

For More Information

Please read our Handbook onsite at Forest School (on request) for more detailed guidelines and information. We are always interested to hear from you - for whatever reason!

Contact Us: 07776117671 info@kindaeducation.org

Our postal address is: Kinda Education, 38, Bridge Street, Loddon, Norfolk, Nr14 6EZ

Complaints Procedure

If you have an official complaint, please write to us using the contact details above so we can work with you in order to investigate and resolve any issues. We will inform you in writing of outcomes and actions taken within a period of 28 days.

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