



Admissions Policy for Forest School

Date created: July 2019

Amended January 2022 by CSH, reviewed August 2022, CSH.

Our aim is to have an inclusive setting where all members of society feel safe and welcome and have their needs met. We actively stand against and will not tolerate any kind of discrimination based on race, sex, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, religion or belief.

Please read in conjunction with our Belonging policy and Anti-Racism Policy.

Admissions

Stay and Play

All parents/carers and children are warmly welcomed at our Stay and Play sessions regardless of their race, sex, age, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, religion or belief.

Admissions will be on a first come first served basis.

Families will go on a waiting list as necessary.

Bookings are on a term by term basis with payment in advance.

Spaces in subsequent terms will go to existing families in the first instance to maintain continuity.

Forest School for children who are Electively Home Educated

Woodland Nurture Home Ed Forest School is open to all children aged between 5 and 15, from all social, cultural and religious backgrounds regardless of race, sex, ethnicity, nationality, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity/expression, religion or belief.

Admission will be on a first come first served basis with consideration for siblings.

Our Adult: Child ration of no more than 1:8 will be maintained at all times with a maximum of 30 children per session.

Since we are not Early Years registered children under 5s can not be left alone in our setting for more than 2 hours but we can take 4 year olds if they attend with their parent/carer.

Children will go on a waiting list as necessary.

If the waiting list is substantial, it may be possible for alternative sessions to be created.

Bookings are on a term by term basis with payment in advance.

Spaces in subsequent terms will go to existing families in the first instance to maintain continuity.

Special Educational Needs

Our aim is to ensure that all learners under our care can play and learn in a safe environment.

Admission of children with additional needs will be assessed on an individual basis after consultation with parents, carers, staff and other relevant parties.

It is imperative that parents are open and honest about their children's needs and past experiences so that we can make a fair and appropriate assessment.

Children will be admitted providing we are confident that their needs can be met without compromising the service, in line with the Disability Discrimination Act. There will be occasions when we feel our sessions are not suitable for a particular child at that particular point in time, for a variety of reasons.

A period of assessment will take place during the first few weeks of the child joining us so that we can find the best way to meet their needs.

A child requiring further support may be admitted if a parent/carer can provide a key worker to maintain ratios and provide appropriate care.

If it is not possible for the parents to provide a key worker, we will endeavour to source 1:1 staffing ourselves, this will come at an additional cost to cover the extra staffing and planning required.

It may be possible to write our sessions into a child's EHC Plan to access funding.

Flexi-Schooling.

We acknowledge that flexi-schooling can be of great benefit to a child and can complement the education they receive in their school. We welcome flexi-schooled children in our setting.

Where parents wish to flexi-school their children, the following must be considered:

- The responsibility for a child receiving full-time education while he or she is of statutory school age lies with the parent or guardian/carer.
- Where a parent/carer educates a child partly at school and partly at home or elsewhere as an expression of parental preference, this is called flexi-schooling.
- Flexi-schooling must not be confused with elective home education.
- Parents/carers have a legal right to choose to home educate their child but parents/carers do not have a legal right to insist on a flexi-schooling arrangement being agreed by the school.
- Whilst a parent/carer may request that their child is flexi-schooled it is entirely at the discretion of the head teacher, acting with the authority of the governing body, as to whether or not the school is prepared to agree to a flexi-schooling arrangement.
- If a parent/carer is interested in making a request for a flexi-schooling arrangement, contact must be made directly with the head teacher of the school so that the proposal may be considered. It can take several weeks for an informed decision to be made.
- It is our intention to work in partnership with schools and as such we are only able to accept flexi-schooled children if permission has been granted by the school. A formal letter will need to be presented to us before we admit a child.
- We will not be party to the encouragement of truancy and value a transparent dialogue between the parents/carers, the school involved and ourselves.