**Forest School Policy**

Our aim for this policy is to set out the vision for our forest school at Templegate Tiny Tots and how we shall implement this.

Our vision is based on the 6 principles of Forest School created by the Forest School Association (FSA)

1. Forest School is a long-term process of regular sessions, rather than one-off or infrequent visits; the cycle of planning, observation, adaptation and review links each session.

Templegate Tiny Tots Preschool runs Tree Tots Forest School on a regular basis to ensure all children who attend have an opportunity to access the Forest School experience at least once a week.

* This provision is available throughout the academic year.
* We aim to timetable our sessions so that all children can attend. Where this is not possible, children will be invited to stay and play sessions planned for every calendar month.
* We are an inclusive practice and our sessions are accessible for all children regardless of ability, race, culture, religious beliefs or gender.
* Each session is carefully planned based on learner achievements and needs and their interests from the previous sessions.

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

The Templegate Tree Tot Forest School sessions will take place onsite in the designated forest school area with visits to Temple Newsam Woodland at least once a half term.

Children are encouraged to engage with the natural environment and learn how to look after the forest school site with the vision that this knowledge will be used in the wider world around them.

The site will be managed to reduce the ecological impact and promote biodiversity to the area.

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

Sessions are planned on the basis of the children’s needs, developing skills  from previous sessions.

Sessions are flexible and follow the child’s interest.

Children are respected using a non judgemental approach to foster their needs and promote their place in the forest school community.

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

All children have opportunities to explore, create, socialise, bond, challenge themselves whilst their emotional wellbeing is supported. We aim to develop children’s physical well being alongside their social, emotional, intellectual skills.

The Forest School will promote their spiritual well being by supporting their connection to the world around them.

We foster a  small community feel in our sessions, with sessions accommodating between 10-15 children.

Our Forest School curriculum focuses on children’s emotional well being as well as developing their communication skills.

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

Templegate Tree Tots provide opportunities for children to take appropriate risks and give them the opportunity to evaluate how to engage in these activities safely. Children are encouraged to risk activities themselves, supported by sensitive interactions with supervising adults.

The area is risk assessed regularly especially when going off site.

All sessions are planned with relevant risk- benefit assessments completed.

Staff are trained on dynamic risk assessments in case the need should arise.

At least two members of staff are first aid trained.

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

Tree Tots Forest School is delivered by a qualified Level 3 Forest School Leader, supported by a high staff ratio to plan challenging activities that support the child’s resilience and developing self confidence.

All staff to attend Forest School in house training.

Staff are continually developing their knowledge through courses, networks and literature.

Forest school sessions are run in accordance with the Templegate Tree Tots Forest School Handbook which outlines procedures and risk benefit assessments as well as woodland management plan. All staff involved in Forest School sessions (including volunteers and trainees) must read and sign the handbook.

This policy was signed on behalf of the preschool – T Pattison (Preschool Manager)