Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement: State here which EYFS Safeguarding and Welfare Requirement this document relates to.

Providers must take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of children, staff and others on the premises.

FOREST SCHOOL POLICY

POLICY ON HEALTH AND SAFETY FOR FOREST SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Policy statement

It is the policy of Cotswold bunnies to create a safe environment and to encourage ways of working which will ensure the safety of children, employees and all other persons who come on the premises. The standard Health and Safety Policy will be followed, to include the procedures listed in this policy.

Procedures

Prior to Forest School Sessions beginning, all parents will be sent the Handbook and asked to sign the last page at their first session. All staff will have read the Handbook whether they are involved in the Forest School or not.

Health and Safety

- A risk assessment specific to the Forest School site and the Forest school activities have been put in place, along side the standard Health and Safety policies and in line with all relevant government guidance.
- The risk assessment will be kept on nursery site and accessible at all times.
- A site check will be carried out prior to each Forest School session, and any hazards will be identified and where appropriate, removed.
- In cases of adverse weather, Forest School sessions will not go ahead.
- Health and Safety talks will be delivered to the children prior to EACH session, including discussions of boundaries.
- The Forest School practitioner will hold the relevant Forest School Lead Practitioner training, as well as first aid qualifications, including Forest School specialised first aid training.
- A first aid kit will be present at all Forest School Sessions.
- A mobile telephone will be taken to the Forest School site for each session.
- Sun cream will be applied as per the nursery policy.

- Forest School practitioners will have a Walkie Talkie to contact other members of staff, and will make colleagues aware of all changes (“fire being lit”, “Tools coming out”, “leaving site for a walk” etc).
- In the event of a fire or fire drill at the nursery, the standard Fire Evacuation policy will be followed, and the safe meeting place will be
    - next to the hedge and front gate (Common).
    - Across the paddock (Cowshed)

Safe use of tools

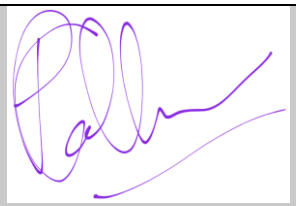
- All Forest Schools equipment will be stored in the secure box, and have a fitted lock when not in use.
- Tool use will be supervised at all times.
- A ‘Tool Talk’ will be delivered before use of any tool.
- When a tool is not in use, safety covers will be replaced and the tool will be in the designated tool area.
- Appropriate PPE will be provided during tool use

Safe Use of Fires

Controlled fires will only be carried out in line with the Forest School risk assessment. A fire will never be carried out without a Level 3 Forest School Practitioner present. Where possible, there will be 2 staff/adults present when a fire is a light, one of which will always man the fire taking the Forest School approach and using skills they obtained from their training. Where this is not possible, added procedures will be in place to ensure the safety of the Practitioner and all Children. The fire will always be lit within the fire pit and only used if safe to do so. All fires are thoroughly doused after use, and children are kept away from the dying fire until it is fully cooled. If we notice any fire activity outside of our Forest School sessions due to unauthorised users, we will assess the situation, and if necessary, contact the emergency services.

For further information, please refer to the Forest School Handbook, Fire Evacuation Policy, Adverse Weather Policy, Health, Safety and Environmental Policy, and Staffing (group provision) policy.

This Policy was adopted by:		Cotswold Bunnies Nurseries Ltd	
On:	03.10.2025	Date to be reviewed:	03.10.2026

Signed on behalf of the Provider:	
Name of Signatory:	Pippa Collins
Role of Signatory (e.g, Chair, Director or Manager)	Manager