



July 2021

## Forest Sessions Information & Standard Terms and Conditions

### Covid-19:

We are committed to maintaining the health and safety of all the children and adults attending our sessions and have been following the government regulations and guidance and implemented the protective measures necessary to protect participants.

### We require all participants, or their parents, to:

- Provide all personal contact information to provide to Track and Trace should it be required
- Advise us if they become unwell, ensuring that anyone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms do not attend the session.
- Clean their hands more often than usual, including before and after activities and before and after using toilet/washroom facilities

**Please adhere to all guidance and directions given whilst onsite at the woodland/ forest school sessions.** As per government guidance, in relation to the perceived lower risks to children, we will not require all participants to wear PPE, nor expect that children socially distance throughout the sessions they attend. Where parents attend sessions, we ask parents to maintain a social distance of 2m from other adults attending whenever they can. Should that prove difficult at any time, we ask that adults wear face coverings/ masks. Staff will also follow this approach, keeping their distance from other adults to 2m, and where that is not possible, they will wear a mask.

### **Please read the government guidance: [Out-of-school settings: COVID- 19 guidance for parents and carers](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002337/OOSS_Parent_Guidance_Step_4_PDF_coverings.pdf)**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1002337/OOSS\\_Parent\\_Guidance\\_Step\\_4\\_PDF\\_coverings.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1002337/OOSS_Parent_Guidance_Step_4_PDF_coverings.pdf)

**Activities:** There will be a number of activities and experiences for children offered through all GROW Forest sessions. A range of resources and games will be brought to each session, enabling children to use their imagination, to explore and follow their curiosity, engage in physical, and at times risky play, and manage the risks that they face.

Because of the nature of the woodland natural environment, and children and young people's exposure to these challenges and risks, they may at times leave the session with scratches, bumps and bruises, which we trust you will recognise and anticipate as normal consequences of your child's engagement with the natural environment. GROW will of course record all incidents warranting inclusion in the Accident Record Book.

**Tool safety:** GROW Forest leaders are experienced and trained in using tools. Some activities will include the safe use of tools. Tools used may include small bushcraft knives, secateurs, junior hacksaws and bowsaws, and include fire steels, which may be used during a session in a small group or on a one to one basis (whenever this is appropriate). Instruction and discussion will take place about holding and using tools and all children must first demonstrate their understanding of the safety elements, and how to be responsible, before they are given the

GROW-Wellbeing C.I.C. is a not-for-profit organisation that delivers creative, personally affirmative opportunities for children, young people and adults to engage in activities within a range of natural environments, including Forest School.

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opportunity to use tools. Keeping each individual and the whole of the group safe is paramount.

Access to tools is permitted only with the express permission of the GROW forest leader, and as such, participants should not take hold of any tool or fire lighting device without the permission of the GROW leader present. After use, children and adults should return any tools used to the container/ bag from which they were taken to ensure the safety of all participants.

**Fire safety:** There may be a campfire or activities based on fire lighting at GROW Forest sessions. Fires and fire lighting provide many therapeutic benefits to children, including enhancing a child's self-esteem when they have successfully contributed to the making of a fire. Children must demonstrate their understanding of fire safety prior to the fire being lit. The safety of the whole group is paramount and the GROW Forest leader will assess the risk / benefit of having a fire during each session.

**Photo-consent:** In order to comply with GROW-Wellbeing's Data Protection Policy, parents/carers are asked to provide written consent for the taking and recording of images, prior to any session beginning. Any images captured will be processed in line with best practice and in full compliance with the GRDP 2018.

During any GROW sessions, participants or parents/carers of participants are requested to restrict the taking of photographs to just the children in their care, unless they have the express permission of another parent or carer to photograph the children in their care, as this may otherwise contravene the GRDP 2018. Photographs of individual child and adult participants, taken by GROW, may be provided in digital format on request and by negotiation with the Programme Director.

**Mobile phones:** GROW would politely request that all child participants and parents/carers of participants do not use their mobile phones, tablets or other devices during the GROW session, other than to take photo or video of their own children. Participants are requested therefore to put phones away safely in a personal bag during the session, unless there is an anticipation of an emergency call being expected, if so, please advise the Forest School leader of this at the start of the session.

There are two key reasons for this request:

- In order to comply with the GROW Data Protection Policy, restricting use of photo and video recording.
- GROW-Wellbeing sessions are intended to provide enjoyment of the natural environment, removed from the usual distractions of urban life. Use of mobile phones, tablets and other devices may adversely impact on both your and other participants' enjoyment of the natural environment.

**Bookings & Cancellations:** Bookings are non-refundable. When booking an advanced payment 'plan', it is expected that you will attend all available sessions as part of your plan, and non-attendance is not transferable. In exceptional circumstances, when you are unable to attend a session, please contact the GROW Programme Director, who, at their discretion, may allow for an alternative session.

Sessions will only be cancelled in the event of severe winds or an electrical storm. In the event of this, you will be given the option of an alternative date or a full refund.