

Mill Lane Community Primary School

Forest School

**Clothing Policy**

This documentation runs alongside the relevant whole school policies which can be viewed in full at

<http://www.mill-lane.oxon.sch.uk/website/policies/3739>

Children enjoy themselves much more at Forest School if they are comfortably dressed for the conditions. Please bear in mind that they are particularly vulnerable to cold hands, feet and heads and that it is much easier to remove a layer if they get hot than to warm them up if they are cold.

As with other items of uniform, all clothes for Forest School should be name-marked.

Winter clothing

Wellington boots will keep their feet reasonably warm if the boots are not too small with room inside to wear at least two pairs of socks.

Hands need gloves – and warm, waterproof ones are best. Wet gloves are very cold to wear. Mittens are not suitable for Forest School activities.

Coat – This should be both warm and waterproof.

Layers – Children should have three layers of clothing between their body and their coat. At least one layer should be of fleecy material as this traps pockets of air, which warm up and insulate the child from the cold.

Legwear – Two warm layers under waterproof leggings work best. Jeans are very cold and get heavy and uncomfortable when wet – jogging bottoms or corduroy trousers are better options.

Hat – A comfortable, lined hat is essential to keep out the wind.

Summer clothing

We recommend layers of light clothing that fully cover arms and legs: shorts and short-sleeved tee-shirts are not suitable as there are spiky plants and stinging nettles in Gruffland. If the children become too hot, they can easily remove a layer and put it back on later.

Coat – Children will need a light, waterproof jacket.

Footwear – Trainers or walking boots/shoes and socks that cover the ankles are important to protect against nettles and thistles. Wellington boots are not recommended, as they are very uncomfortable when the weather is warm.

On particularly sunny days, a sun hat with a brim or flaps that protect the face and the back of the neck is a good idea. The Forest School site offers a variety of shade but there are open areas that the children can explore. You may also like to apply all-day sun cream on sunny days before your child comes to school.

Adult clothing

All adults, either staff or volunteers, will need to wear suitable clothing. Long sleeves and long trousers are appropriate all year round to prevent scratches and cuts.

Wearing light layered clothing ensures warmth but can be removed if too hot.

A suitable warm, waterproof coat should be worn during any sessions.

Footwear needs to be warm and waterproof.

Gloves and hats suitable for the weather conditions should be worn.

In summer please consider the use of sun creams.

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Reviewed: September 2018

Next Review: September 2019