Forest School - Use of tools Policy

Using small hand tools is an important part of Forest School as it enables children to develop new, practical skills that help them develop self confidence.
Hand tools are to be maintained in good order by the Forest School Leader and will be inspected before each session to ensure safety. Children and adults will be taught how to handle tools properly and to treat them with respect. This will be achieved by following these guidelines:

- Tools will be kept in the Forest School tool box and only removed by the Forest School staff or volunteers.
- Penknives will be used by Forest School staff or volunteers only
- Running with tools is prohibited
- Pointing with tools is prohibited
- Children will lose permission to use tools if the guidelines are not followed
- All tools will be used two arms and a tool length away from other people
- Bow saws must have a blade guard on them when not in use. Blade guards to be removed and put back only by Forest School staff or volunteers
- Wood being sawn must be supported on a natural sawing break – hands must be kept away from the blade.
- When using potato peelers to whittle, this must be done at the side of, and downwards of the body

- All tools must be counted back into the tool box at the end of the session

Written October 2013

Reviewed December 2016

To be reviewed October 2017