



CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY

BEING Outdoors CIC Directors, freelancers and volunteers have a common passion for outdoor learning, sharing skills and nurturing our learners' development. They are required to have a basic knowledge of the woodland setting and to support our BEING Outdoors CIC therapeutic outdoor education ethos.

All BEING Outdoors staff and volunteers carry valid and current enhanced DBS checks. Safeguarding and confidentiality procedures are fully shared with employees and volunteers. All staff and volunteers are required to place the needs, welfare and wellbeing of our learners as their priority when attending BEING Outdoors CIC sessions.

Our role as facilitators is aimed at:

- Providing time and space for the children to lead their own learning
- Join in with their learning particularly the group games and reflection time
- Take time to connect with the children - Try to adopt a PACE approach - PLAYFUL, ACCEPTING, CURIOUS, EMPATHY – this may feel uncomfortable at first but can be great for relationships back home or in the classroom.
- Be a positive role-model
- Be an emotional coach to support with emotional labelling, understanding their emotions and regulating them
- Ensuring the children are safe and intervene where necessary
- Nurture a community where everyone feels valued

Volunteers

We welcome parents/carers/family members and helpers from schools we work with as well as other volunteers and work experience young people (particularly those interested in therapeutic outdoor education / Forest School) as they have a wealth of experience and strengths that can help with the education and experiences of the children. We encourage volunteers to be actively involved in supporting the children's learning, play and safety (rather than a passive adult in the group), but they have a responsibility under the guidance and direction of the Forest School Leader to ensure that guidelines, risk assessments, procedures and policies are always followed. Ultimate responsibility lies with the Forest School Leader, but we ask that they always contribute to the safety and wellbeing of the group. **All volunteers age 16+ will have DBS checks and wear DBS checked staff id cards.**

Guidelines for Volunteers

Prior to commencing a session, volunteers have access to our handbook and are given a brief introduction to the outdoor learning area, how sessions are run and how the wood / area is managed.

- Volunteers will have read and signed the BOCIC Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy prior to commencing their session(s) with BOCIC



- Volunteers should take part in pre session briefings from the Forest School Leader
- Volunteers will be told that the supporting of children with challenging behaviours is the responsibility of the Forest School Leader
- When escorting children to the toilet, volunteers should not go into the toilet – even if the pupil requests help. The volunteer should find a member of staff to assist.
- Volunteers should become familiar with the Forest School Handbook and Procedures
- Volunteers should promote the ethos of Forest Schools to raise self-esteem and confidence
- Volunteers should assist in monitoring children in their experiences—particularly regarding safety and wellbeing
- Volunteers should assist children with their kit when needed

Our CODE OF CONDUCT POLICY works in conjunction with the following policies in our Staff Handbook.

- Communications
- Confidentiality
- Data Protection
- Health and Safety
- Phones and Photos
- Safeguarding & Child Protection
- Whistleblowing