



**MELLERS PRIMARY SCHOOL
CAMP FIRE POLICY
MARCH 2020**

Campfires are an important part of Mellers outdoor learning and are used in many sessions. Mellers Primary School aims to ensure that all children and adults participating in campfire sessions with fires will do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible.

Location

Only previously agreed areas will be used for campfires, these will mainly be in the nature garden towards the back of Key Stage Two building.

Campfire areas will be enclosed in a firepit to minimise the spread of fire.

The storm (Kelly) kettle will only be used on flat ground and any woodchip or leaf litter must be brushed away before use.

Prior checks

Before using the fire pit area, the designated person in charge will check the area for hazards. It is to be kept clear from trip hazards at all times.

The campfire pit circle has an entrance and an exit.

Seats are spaced around the campfire edge at least three metres away.

First aid kits need to be checked before campfires sessions take place.

Water needs to be positioned at the campfire site before the activity takes place.

The designated person in charge notifies the office staff and John Carroll before campfire sessions take place.

The designated person in charge completes/ checks the risk assessment on Evolve before the campfire session takes place.

Positioning of children and adults

The fire area will be surrounded by seating logs at least 3 metres from the fire pit.

When the campfire is in use the children cannot enter the designated area without permission.

When allowed to access the campfire, children must walk around the outside of the seating logs and wait for permission to step over. Once permission has been given, they must sit, ensuring legs are drawn into the log and not outstretched.

The campfire must have an entrance and an exit, children are made aware of these on arrival.

Once seated around the campfire, the children must remain seated until directed by an adult to move.

Children will be taught how to change seats by standing, stepping over the log and then walking around the outside of the seating area. They must never cross the inner area.

Long sleeves and trousers must always be worn.

Scarfs and long hair must be tied back to prevent catching on fire.

All children to wear sensible footwear, ideally wellies, snow boots or trainers. No sandals, crocs or other open shoes to be worn during sessions. Socks to be worn to protect legs.

Children are not permitted to throw anything onto the fire.

Advice on the appropriate way for dealing with smoke will be given to the children: they are advised to turn their head to one side, placing their hand across the face and to close their eyes.

If there is a clear wind direction, seating in the line of smoke is to be avoided.

Safety and Responsibility

1. Lighting and keeping fires burning

Only adults are permitted to light fires. This will usually be the Forest School Leader.

Leaves and dry wood are removed from the fire pit site before the fire is lit.

Fires are lit using fire lighting blocks, sticks, newspaper and matches or a strike stick.

No flammable liquids are to be used to light or accelerate fires.

No plastics are to be burnt.

If sessions involve children adding fuel to the fire, this must be done with one to one adult supervision.

Sticks/wood must be placed, not thrown, from the side of the fire. The hand should never go over the fire.

The Kelly kettle will be removed from the fire pan by the designated person in charge. To do this safely they will lift the kettle using the sides of the metal handle, pouring will then be controlled by using one hand on the top of the handle and the other on the chain.

The Kelly kettle should never be heated with the cork in.

2. Extinguishing fires

All fires must be extinguished at the end of a session.

Water should always be to hand during campfire sessions, at least two buckets.

The designated person in charge should ensure that any large remains of wood are separated from one another.

At the end of the session, the fire must be doused down with water and stirred until all smoke and steam has ceased.

Large build ups of potash, from several fires, need to be dispersed. This must only be done when it has totally cooled, preferably the following day. It should be finely scattered throughout the woodland to enable natural decomposition.

3. First Aid

First aid kits should be checked by the designated person in charge before they run the activity.

Hand sanitiser must be handed out before eating campfire food.

Food is only allowed to be eaten when safe to do so- marshmallows are cool eno