

Kelly Kettle and Fire Pit policy

Freemantle C.E. Community Academy Trust



Reviewed by:	Amanda Steinman	Date: April 2025
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1. Use of the Kelly Kettle and Fire Pit

The use of the fire pit and the Kelly kettle are important parts of the Forest School experience. We ensure that all children and adults participating in Forest School sessions with a fire and/or Kelly kettle will do so safely and with as little risk to their health as possible. Whenever the Kelly kettle or fire pit is used a bucket of water and fire gloves must be kept in the fire circle at all times.

2. Location

- Only the fire pit area will be used for fires
- The fire pit area is enclosed to prevent the spread of fire.
- Overhanging branches etc. are cut back when necessary
- The Kelly kettle is only used on flat ground and any leaf litter must be removed before use.

3. Positioning of Children and Adults

- The Fire area is surrounded by seating at a safe distance from the fire circle.
- Children are not permitted to access the inside of the fire circle area without permission- even when it is not in use. This rule is taught to the children in their first sessions and recapped as necessary. A group will only have a fire or use the Kelly kettle if the FS leader feels that the children understand and can follow this rule appropriately.
- Children sat around fire circle need to ensure their legs are drawn into their seat and not outstretched.
- Once seated around the fire circle, the children must walk around the outside of the seating- not cut across the middle (even when there is no fire)
- Children are not permitted to throw anything onto the fire.
- If there is a clear wind direction, seating in the line of smoke should be avoided.
- At times children will be 'given permission' by an adult to enter the fire circle to help feed the Kelly kettle, cook food etc. This will only happen if the forest school leader deems the children can do this responsibly
- If the fire pit is used as a stand-alone session (such as a wow for a topic for younger pupils), the children will come out in small groups and with an extra adult if deemed appropriate.

4. Safety and Responsibility

- The fire pit will be checked at beginning and end of every session- leaves etc. need to be cleared away before lighting a fire
- Fires will be lit by an adult or by a chosen child under close adult support. The adult must then stay with the fire until it has been extinguished
- During sessions adults will talk to children about fire, how we light fires, how fire is dangerous and that the fire circle is the only place fire is made
- 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 e.g. feeding the Kelly Kettle, this must be done with close adult supervision. Sticks must be placed into the Kelly Kettle chimney from the side and angled to fall in. Children's hands should never go over the chimney.
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5. Extinguishing

- All fires must be extinguished at the end of a session. The fire must be doused down with water and stirred until all smoke and steam has ceased.
- Water should always be to hand during sessions involving a fire
- Whenever possible, all fuels should be burnt off to ash.
- Large build ups of ash, 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.

6. Kelly Kettle

- The Kelly kettle must be placed in the fire circle.
- Children can feed the fire with close adult supervision but they must have been shown how to do so safely (the stick must be held at the end and dropped in from the side; hands should never be placed over the top of the kettle)
- Fuel should burn itself out, but if it doesn't it must be extinguished with water (see above)
- Kelly kettles should never be boiled with the bung in.
- The water should be tipped out of the Kelly kettle using the chain of the stopper to avoid touching the hot metal of the kettle
- The Kelly kettle needs to be left in the fire circle to cool after use- where children are not able to touch it.