

Wild Tribe Handbook



Miss Davey- Wild Tribe Lead



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Intent

At St Catherine's school "we strive to educate our children to realise their aspirations and to contribute positively to society by our Christian principles". We believe outdoor learning allows the pupils to be a positive part of their community. Our curriculum provides a broad range of rich experiences with a focus on engaging the children and the right to experience risk in a safe way in the natural environment. Getting hands-on experience within our environment develops children's understanding of their place in the world. We want our children to be critical thinkers and change things for the better. Every individual, regardless of their starting point, is welcomed and wanted. We give equal opportunities to every child, providing them with transferable skills that they will use for the rest of their life. Guided by our Christian principles we are working together towards a hopeful, inclusive world. Giving our children the opportunities to explore and experience our beautiful world, supports them to follow their aspirations and be creative, curious learners.

We encourage children to:

- Work together as a team
- Use a range of tools
- Take risks
- Be curious and motivated
- Become confident and believe in themselves
- Be focused and engaged
- Extend their vocabulary
- Build resilience and independence
- Spark imagination and creativity
- Respect and look after their environment



Roles and Responsibilities

Abbie Davey has completed the Wild Tribe subject leaders award through Arena. She runs these sessions through after school clubs, Nursery and toddler group.

The role of the Wild Tribe leader is to allow the children to meet risk and challenges appropriate to their age, personality and stage of development to ensure their safety.

Health and safety checklists will be available within the polytunnel, these will need to be completed daily by the wild tribe leader to ensure the area is safe for use.

The wild tribe leader will be leading the small group 'focus' activities whilst the 2nd member of staff will be overseeing the remaining children exploring the other activities.

The 2nd member of staff is responsible for doing multiple headcounts throughout the sessions.

Resources and equipment need putting away after use.

Tools need to be counted back into their lockbox.

Any broken/unsafe tools/equipment need to be handed to the wild tribe lead for appropriate disposal.

Resourcing

Children will have the opportunity to cover all areas of development within wild tribe clubs and sessions. They will be using a variety of saws, knives, knots, craft techniques, fire lighting and cooking equipment. As well as exploring loose parts to ignite curiosity, creativity and imagination.



Weather

If the weather is below 5degrees, outdoor learning time will be limited. If wind speeds exceed 40MPH sessions will have to postponed or relocated inside.

If the UV is measuring high, sessions will take place in the most shaded area (for Nursery please see separate sun safety policy).

Wild tribe will still take place in cold and wet weather so please ensure to dress your child appropriately.

Clothing

'There is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing'. Children must be dressed in long sleeve clothing all year round with waterproofs available during wet weather. Boots or secure shoes to be worn and long hair always tied back.

Appropriate clothing for wet and cold weather:

- Thermal vests/leggings
- Jumpers
- Fluffy socks
- Hat/scarf/gloves
- Waterproof trousers and a warm coat

Appropriate clothing for hot and sunny weather:

- Thin long sleeve top and bottoms
- Secure shoes or welly boots
- Sun hat and sun cream



Health and safety

Health and safety checks are to be made daily before the polytunnel and wild tribe areas are used, these are to be completed by our wild tribe lead. First aid kits are to be taken up each session. Some of the activities the pupils may participate in are 'higher-risk activities' (such as campfire cooking or tool use). However, these activities are not available to the pupils until certain behaviours and boundaries are established. Pupils are encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.

Rules around wild tribe are strict for the safety of the children:

- To be helpers and advocates
- To stay focused on the task
- Use tools appropriately and for their intended purpose
- Keep the environment clean and tidy
- Treat others as you wish to be treated

Measuring practical skills development and wellbeing

Throughout our wild tribe sessions, we will be measuring skills progression through journey sticks or learning trees.

Health, happiness and wellbeing will be recorded through a paper copy or a more visual approach for our EYFS department.

To promote positive behaviour and improve sense of self, we will use 'positivity tokens'. Adults and children have the opportunity to hand these out to children who are following our school vision and values.

Equality and inclusion

Through the story of 'The Good Samaritan' the children learn to be open in their experiences, overcome prejudices, encourage dignity, live well together, celebrate individuality, differences and encourage kind actions.

No individual will be unjustly discriminated against because of their protected characteristics. We will promote equality of opportunity by seeking to remove barriers and promote equal access to outdoor learning experiences.

People from different backgrounds bring new ideas and perspectives. These all add value to our school and the outdoor learning environment. The more diverse our school is, the better we are able to respond to and reflect the individuals and communities we support.

Toileting

During outdoor learning sessions school aged children are able to return to the school building to use the toilets, the doors to the junior bathroom are in vision from the polytunnel area.

A camping toilet and tent (for privacy) is provided for younger children, this is bought back to Nursery and cleaned out immediately.

Wet wipes, nappy sacks and 2 full changes are clothes are stored in the polytunnel for Nursery children toileting emergencies.



Ticks

Due to Nursery sessions taking place anytime throughout the school day, we will check exposed skin for ticks when we return to the building.

However we recommend parents checking them too.

For the remainder of the school we are not responsible for checking the children for ticks, we recommend checking your child for ticks after each Wild Tribe session.

Ticks may appear as small pin-heads on the skin, dark brown/grey in colour.



Use of fire

Fires are a crucial part of Wild Tribe sessions; the children will be made aware of the rules and consequences if not abided by. We aim to ensure that everyone participating in fire sessions do so safely with as little risk as possible.



Eating, Drinking and Cooking

We constantly talk to the children about keeping themselves safe in the woods, meaning we shouldn't eat anything unless instructed to do so. The children are aware that there could be poisonous plants in the woods so they are reminded not to put their hands in their mouths/noses.

During snack time, the children will use hand sanitiser provided to ensure their hands are clean before starting their snack.



Playing with Stones and Sticks

We ask that children always think of others when playing with sticks/stones, the phrase 'throw into a space' is great to teach the children to assess the space around them and work out whether it is safe to do so. Throwing is an essential developmental stage, therefore inevitable that this will happen. It is crucial that items are to be thrown under strict and close supervision and guidance from the wild tribe leader.



Tree Climbing

We believe tree climbing is important for development of gross motor skills, this must be done safely with adult supervision. The ground underneath will be checked for sharp/slippery surfaces. The children are always encouraged to take appropriate risks and challenges, but an adults is never far away for guidance and support.



Tools

The Wild tribe leader will assess when it is an appropriate time for introducing tools. Tool use is taught on a 1:1 basis, the tools are stored in their own lock boxes in a safe and secure place. The adult will model the correct use, storage and transportation at all times.

Please see the risk assessment on our page for more information.

