



Forest School Training Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Do I need to do the Level 1 and 2 to be able to do the Level 3?

A: No, you don't.

The level 3 qualification gives you all the theory and practical skills to set up and run Forest School programmes and more importantly actually call it 'Forest School'. It is a very involved qualification with 10 training days and requires a significant amount of written work and takes up to 12 months to complete.

The way the Forest School training is structured does appear a bit confusing. For a start the qualifications are not progressive, so you don't need to do Level 1 & 2 to do the Level 3 you just need to meet the prerequisites as laid out in the course information.

1. Students must be 21 years or over and be able to show a current DBS check.
2. This level 3 training is suitable for people who have experience and or qualifications in working with children and young people, or individuals with a background and qualifications in conservation.
3. This training is recommended for people with a qualification in
 - a. Teaching/teaching assistant
 - b. Youth work
 - c. Conservation/ countryside management
 - d. Playwork
 - e. Forest School level 2
4. As part of the course students are expected to run their own six-session Forest School pilot programme. Before being accepted onto the course you must demonstrate that you have access to a suitable group of children or young people and have gained landowner permission for appropriate woodland or green space in which to run your programme.

If you are unqualified but have regularly volunteered in any of the above roles, we will also consider your application. This list is by no means definitive and if you feel that you have relevant qualifications and experience, please get in touch.

Q: So, what is the Level 1 and 2 all about?

A: The Level 1 teaches the basics of forest school theory and practice. We see it as suitable for SLT members to gain a good insight into Forest School before investing more heavily in the advanced training for other staff. This is a 2-day course with some coursework.

The Level 2 qualifies you to be a Forest School assistant and goes into more depth about the theory and gives you all the practical skills you need to facilitate tool and fire activities with children. However, you don't need to have the level 2 qual to assist with Forest School! This is a 5-day course with more coursework.



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Q: Is the whole course run outside?

A: Yes! We believe that a key part of delivering Forest School is knowing how to deal with all weather conditions. By having our course 100% outdoors we not only give you that opportunity but also give some students the first-ever opportunity to spend significant amounts of time outdoors. We have group tarp shelters and a roaring fire for when things get inclement as well as our recommended clothing list. You will sometimes need to keep your papers dry.

Q: Do we need to bring our own food and drink?

A: We ask that you bring a packed lunch on your first day. We also provide tea, coffee, and biscuits. We love outdoor cooking and think that nothing else created a community of learners faster than cooking and eating together. As a result, we usually get learners to create a food kitty and plan and cook meals together as part of the course. We have a great range of recipes as well as extensive campfire cooking equipment.

Q: What is the toilet situation?

A: At the Bedgebury site there is a toilet for student use in the car park. The Bedgebury Café has a toilet for customers. At the Cinderhill Site, we will take a chemical toilet and privacy tent.

Q: How are learners/ students supported once the face-to-face part of the course is over?

A: We are always only an email away. Just get in touch if you have any questions. We will provide volunteering opportunities for those that want to further develop their practice.

Q: How can we use the qualification?

A: You can run Forest School Sessions and call it Forest School. You can use your status as Forest School Practitioner to ensure you are getting the correct level of Public Liability Insurance.



Q: Do I need to attend refreshers to keep my qualification?

A: You don't need to attend refreshers to keep the qualification **but** one of the key principles of Forest School is that practitioners are always looking at ways of further developing their knowledge. This can be achieved through official training, personal research, and experience. We and other training organisations offer CPD courses for specific areas of Forest School i.e., green woodworking and cooking.

Q: What tools will we use?

A: We will use a wide range of hand tools including:

1. Bow saws
2. Loppers
3. Folding saws
4. Splitting axes
5. Carving axes
6. Billhooks
7. Mallets
8. Knives
9. Hand drills

All tool use is carefully supervised with strict safety procedures. Facilitating tool use with children can be a really great part of a Forest School session. Something we have had great success with. We use the same approach and usage methodology with adult trainees as we do with children. By the end of the course, we are confident that all our trainees will be capable tool users.

Q: How do I present and submit my portfolio of work?

A: We prefer all submissions be made electronically using Word or PDF docs. If you struggle with technology, you can handwrite your work or present it in a number of different forms but please let us know first.