



# The Forest School

## A Centre for Hands-On Learning

### **Memorandum of Understanding**

The Forest School is a hands-on learning centre that combines freedom and form to provide unique, engaging, and student driven learning opportunities. The Forest School community is gentle and kind, nurtures curiosity and a love of learning, and helps develop self-confidence and self-reliance. It is a community of energetic, creative, passionate, inspiring, intelligent and caring individuals-- all searching to learn, to be heard and understood, and to define their place in the natural order of things. It is a community that welcomes excited and engaged newcomers ready to work together to create a wondrous learning adventure.

This *Memorandum of Understanding* is an agreement between The Forest School and your family to ensure a clear understanding of what it means to be a part of the Forest School community. It helps to: maintain the integrity of the school; support your children's experiences here; and ultimately ensure we remain a place where everyone feels valued, safe, and respected. It outlines the responsibilities of The Forest School, the parents/caregivers and the students.

In working with this agreement we know that your child will get the maximum benefit from being at The Forest School.

#### **Facilitators will:**

- Treat all students and families with kindness and dignity
- Make individual plans with families to support their child's growth and success at the school
- Involve the students in determining the term themes and activities
- Present learning themes in fun, hands-on, interactive lessons
- Offer a holistic program, nurturing the body, mind and spirit
- Listen to the concerns of each student and act in a timely and fair manner
- Provide a safe (emotional and physical) space at the Forest School
- Be flexible to meeting individual/group needs, and desires
- Provide balance of freedom and form throughout the day
- Encourage and support peaceful conflict resolution
- Support students in sharing their perspectives, ideas, concerns and feelings
- Create and support a school community where everyone feels valued

#### **As a Parent/Guardian I will:**

- Take an active interest in my child's life at The Forest School
- Be honest about my child's needs and strengths
- Attend the parent advisory meeting each term\*
- Ensure my child has the appropriate clothing for the weather
- Make individual plans with the school to support my child's growth and success
- Attend term celebrations
- Contribute to annual fundraising endeavors\*
- Participate in a ½ day parental immersion at the Forest School in the first term my child is registered
- Contribute term service hours\*

(\*These are further explained in the document- Role of the Parents and Families)

**As a Student I will:**

- Treat other students and staff with politeness and consideration
- Recognize the school day is a balance of freedom and choice, with form and expected participation
- Respect school and others property
- Restrain from all forms of violence (physical and emotional)
- Follow specific safety and boundary rules set out at the Forest School
- Be willing to take direction and open to must do's
- Take responsibility for my actions- understanding that I make my own choices about my behaviours, accepting my mistakes and making them right.
- Adhere to the group developed full value contract- outlining how to be together in a way that ensures everyone gets full value out of the experience and feels fully valued

Please Sign Below:

To provide you with the best opportunity for an enriching and successful experience at The Forest School we all agree to meet the above responsibilities.

Student \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Caregiver \_\_\_\_\_

Staff \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_