

Guidance Note 2

Forest School Training Network – Aims and Membership

Aims and Objectives

The Forest School Training Network GB enables Forest School trainers (those delivering L3 and above) the opportunity to work together to continue to develop a qualification framework and to improve the quality and consistency of Forest School training by:

- sharing good practice through standardisation of assessment practise and guidance notes
- helping build Forest School training capacity through agreed channels
- exploring the possibility of a Forest School National Award

Benefits of joining the Network

- Sharing good practice and assessment procedures and standards
- Sharing CPD ideas
- Receipt of updated units

Delivering the Level 3 Award and joining the Network

The Network recognises that a number of routes exist to become a Forest School trainer and has agreed good practice guidelines for delivering the Level 3 Award and joining the Network.

Good practice requisites for a trainer delivering the Level 3 Units:

- A recognised Level 3 Forest School Qualification (BTec, OCN or Agored Cymru)
- Minimum of two years experience of setting up and running a range of Forest School programmes to client groups from across the age range, since qualification. It is recommended that trainers strive to deliver a year long Forest School programme
- A recognised qualification in teaching and assessing Level 3/adults e.g. PGCE or B Ed (Secondary), FE/HE teaching qualification (7407), CTTL, DTTL (or Welsh/Scottish equivalents) or Tutor Assessor Award level 3 or above **OR**
- Proven experience of L3 Forest School training and assessing **OR** mentoring/shadowing by an existing member of the Training Network **OR** an OCN Level 4 qualification (currently offered by Archimedes), the Forest School tutor/mentor scheme (currently offered by FSTC) or Agored Cymru L4 (currently piloting in Wales)
- Minimum 1 years training experience with a range of client groups
- Relevant First Aid qualification
- Sufficient public liability insurance to cover client group and activities undertaken
- Be a registered OCN centre or be working through a registered OCN Centre **OR** be a registered Agored Cymru Centre or be working through a registered Agored Cymru Centre

Delivering the Level 1 and Level 2 Units

The Network recognises that the current Level 1 and Level 2 units serve a range of learners and have not been as extensively piloted as the Level 3 units. The Network have agreed good practice guidelines for delivering the Level 1 and 2 Units to adults are the same as those for Level 3

Continued Membership

To continue membership of the Forest School Trainers Network GB, members need to attend at least one general meeting per year and either attend the annual standardization meeting or be able to provide evidence of attendance at a local event.

To obtain all the sharing practice notes, members need to attend at least two meetings per year.

Getting involved with the Network

The Network meets three times a year in a variety of locations when Network business is discussed and standardisation of assessment is shared.

If you would like to come to a meeting as an observer or wish to use the current OCN/Agored Cymru Forest School units according to current good practice please obtain an application form from:

For England: Susannah Podmore susannah.podmore@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

For Wales and Scotland: Sue Williams sue.williams@forestry.gsi.gov.uk,

An application form will be sent requesting information about which units you are hoping to use, your OCN/Agored centre and details of your relevant experience according to the appropriate requisites (see requisites outlined above). The form should be completed in as much detail as possible and returned with any supporting evidence. Your information will then be circulated to members of the Network who have experience of delivering those units. This sub-group will look at the application and then contact the applicant to let them know the outcome of the exchange.

If you fulfil all the requirements, you will be accepted on to the Network. If there are requirements that need to be met and there is a discussion to be had on your suggested path then a recommendation will be made at the next Network meeting. You will either be approved or given advice and information on how you can reach the agreed requisites.

Guidance Note 2b illustrates the process as a flow diagram.

Current Network Membership

See Guidance Note 2a