

Guidance Note 3

Overview of Units and Student Entry Criteria

Introduction to Forest School - Level 1

Level 1 is equivalent to D – G grades at GCSE and generally requires a very high percentage of contact time with the learner.

This qualification comprises one unit which is worth 3 credits and requires at least 27 guided learning hours. The learning outcomes in this unit look at the Forest School approach to learning, the impact of Forest School on the site, and risks and hazards associated with Forest School

Student Entry criteria for Level 1 (for those who may help out at a FS setting)

- Have a current CRB disclosure (or Disclosure Scotland Certificate) after 4 sessions.
- Aged 16 and over

Unit reference and title

England: GA1/1/MR/001 – Introduction to Forest School

Wales: GC91CY002 – Introduction to Learning and Development at Forest School

In Wales the original Level 1 practical unit was retained and all references to Forest School removed. It can be delivered to young people (post 14) taking part in a long term Forest School programme.

SG41CY004 – Practical Woodland Skills – Credit value 2

Forest School Assistants Award – Level 2

Level 2 is equivalent to A* - C grades at GCSE and generally requires at least 60% contact time. This qualification is designed for Forest School Assistants and comprises of two units both worth 3 credits and requiring 30 notional learning hours

Level 2 units are designed to qualify a learner to become a Forest School Assistant, enabling them to take a proactive role in helping the Forest School Practitioner plan and deliver the Forest School programme and support the learners.

Student Entry criteria for Level 2

- Have a relevant qualification equivalent to a level 1 or some experience of working with children/young people
- Have a current CRB disclosure (or Disclosure Scotland Certificate)
- Aged 18 and over

Non-essential but recommended

Have or be in the process of acquiring a current valid First Aid certificate (minimum 2-day ITC or equivalent).

Unit reference and title

England: GA1/2/MR/015– Skills for the Forest School Assistant
GA1/2/MR/016 Supporting Learning and Development at Forest School

Wales: GC92CY006 – Supporting Learning and Development at Forest School
GC92CY005 - Skills for the Forest School Assistant

Level 1 and Level 2 Course Requirements

- Minimum contact time relevant for learners and level - usually within 60 – 90% of notional learning hours
- Staffing ratios for practical elements of course at not less than 1:8 (all accompanying staff should be trained to FS L2 as minimum or equivalent)

Forest School Practitioners Award - Level 3

Level 3 is equivalent to A Level and can be delivered with less than 50% contact time. The award comprises 3 units and is worth 18 credits amounting to 60 notational learning hours.

Level 3 units are designed to be delivered together as three 'modules' to qualify the learner to become a Forest School Practitioner, able to set up and run a Forest School programme.

Student entry criteria for level 3

- Have considerable experience of working with young people
- Age 21 years or over
- Have a level 3 or above qualification (NNEB, Teacher, Play worker or Youth worker (to **level 3** or equivalent) **OR** level 2 with a portfolio of at least **2 years experience** of working with children/young people in a leadership capacity
- Have a current CRB disclosure (or Disclosure Scotland Certificate)
- Have or be in the process of acquiring a current valid First Aid certificate (minimum 2-day ITC or equivalent). or tailored two day First Aid in the Outdoors course delivered and certified by a provider registered with HSE
- Appropriate insurance cover and permissions for delivering a Forest School programme with your client group

Unit reference and title

England: GA1/3/MR/019 – Learning and Development at Forest School
GA1/3/MR/017 - Establishment and Delivery of a Forest School Programme
GA1/3/MR/018 - Forest School Practical Skills and Woodland Management

Wales: GC93CY004 – Learning and Development at Forest School
GC93CY005 - Establishment and Delivery of a Forest School Programme
GC93CY006 - Forest School Practical Skills and Woodland Management

Level 3 course requirement

The Trainer ensures:

- A minimum of 60 hours contact time (33% of notional learning hours)
- Observation assessment of trainee running Forest School or extra hours to carry out detailed simulation

The Learner ensures:

- completing a minimum of 80% contact time (6 sessions is the minimum)
- passing a trainer-led assessment proving competence when teaching tools and fire
- gaining an appropriate first aid qualification (see above)

All Agored Cymru Units are available in Welsh