



FOREST SCHOOLING UK

## Information for parents and carers

### What we do

Forest Schooling UK (FSUK) offers an alternative provision for primary aged children who are struggling in mainstream education. We provide Forest School for two mornings a week for two terms, allowing children a much needed break from the constraints of mainstream schooling. The staff at FSUK are highly experienced in dealing with Social Emotional and Mental Health needs in children and are extremely skilled in working with all types of challenging behaviour. We believe children that need extra support away from the traditional mainstream school environment and curriculum benefit from spending time in our safe space. By developing outdoor activities to engage the individual child, we encourage emotional regulation and equip the child with coping strategies before a return to their mainstream placement.

### Who we are?

FSUK have been operating at St John's School in Kingston upon Thames for a number of years. It is run by Stephen Simpson and Samantha Taylor-Colls.

Stephen Simpson is a fully qualified Forest School Leader and has worked for over twenty five years with 3-18 year olds in creative indoor and outdoor environments. He is a passionate believer in using alternative learning methods with children who need help coping with the pressures of the modern curriculum and believes that environment plays a crucial part in being able to access successful learning. He has two adopted sons, one of whom is diagnosed with ASC, ADHD & ODD. Stephen is a Governor of an SEMH school in South West London

Sam Taylor-Colls PhD is a Research Psychologist in Children and Families who has been working with vulnerable children and families for the last fifteen years. Sam has successfully written and completed her PhD looking at the relationship between a child's social environment and their emotional development. Before joining Forest Schooling UK Sam worked collaboratively with health care professionals, local authorities and educational establishments to nurture and protect children's emotional well-being.

### Where is FSUK?

FSUK is based at St Johns Primary and Nursery School in Kingston Upon Thames. Our site consists of an allotment, forest area and field. We have a small classroom as most of our activity is outdoors. The site is secure and has a separate gate away from the main school setting. We have running water and a compostable toilet on site. We all have radios for contacting the main school building if needed.

## How do I get there?

The school postcode is KT1 2SG, we are situated just down a leafy side road nearby called Three Bridges Path. We have our own access gate here.

Our precise location using the App What3Words is “socket.chairs.gazed”

By bus:

Bus routes 281,406,K1,K2,K3,K4 have stops nearby

By Train

Kingston and Surbiton stations are a short walk away

By car

Portland Road is a “School Street” and has operational cameras restricting access between 0830-0930 and 1445-1545. If travelling by car there is a small car park on Bloomfield Road, nearby, which has path access to Three Bridges path.

## What are the hours that my child will attend?

The days we operate the Alternative Provision are Mondays and Tuesdays from 9am to 12pm.

## How long will my child attend for?

FSUK offers places for a period of two school terms.

## Can I visit FSUK and meet the staff?

Parents and carers are very welcome to visit, call or email us.

## A typical morning at FSUK

The morning starts with a relaxed dynamic group meeting with a child led focus on emotional regulation and skill learning. This can often include games, conversation starters, drawing and telling stories - importantly the children aren't pressured to engage though will be encouraged. The main part of our morning will consist of a forest school session which is entirely child led with the adults introducing activities to take part in. We always gather around the fire (which one of the children will light) at the end of the session to reflect on our day and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate.

## What should my child wear?

Your child should wear warm clothing and waterproof trousers and jacket. They must wear waterproof boots or wellies. In hot weather they must bring a sun hat and sunscreen.

## What should they bring with them?

A water bottle, that's it!

## Reporting progress

Your child's school is kept updated via our daily tracker and will receive verbal updates often. We will provide you and you child's school with a report at the end of your child's time with us. We are happy to chat with you about your child at anytime.