

Forest School Leadership Training Course Welcome Pack



Welcome to the Forest School training programme, we are delighted to have you onboard!

The following document covers all the essential information you will need in order to start your Forest School journey. If you require any additional information or would like to discuss the course in more detail then please feel free to contact us.

About Newquay Forest School

Newquay Forest School was established in 2013 with the purposes of investing in the lives of children, young people and families both in the local area and further afield. We achieve this through working directly with families, schools and youth organisations as well as offering training and support to those involved in caring for children and young people.

Based in a 10 acre wood, the school benefits from direct access to a diverse learning environment through which we deliver a broad range of activity sessions, workshops and courses.

The centre was designed specifically to create a learning space in which individuals, both young and old would be inspired to be creative, to explore and learn through first hand experiences and to develop resilience and confidence along with many other key life skills.

The centre encourages and provides opportunities for time spent outdoors, facing up to and overcoming the various challenges afforded by our natural environment and those inherent in our programs.

The centre also provides a variety of tailor made educational and training packages which can be achieved either through short sessions or alongside a longer term program. As part of this we have teamed up with NOCN to deliver a range of nationally recognised qualifications.

About NOCN

NOCN is one of the leading credit-based Awarding Organisations in the UK, offering high quality, flexible, credit-based qualifications and is recognised by the Qualifications Regulators in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland and also have partnerships with OCNs in Scandinavia.

NOCN are a not for profit organisation and currently have nearly 300 qualifications on both the National Qualification Framework (NQF) and the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF), with qualifications from Entry Level to Level 4.

NOCN are one of the few awarding bodies supported by the Forest School Association.

What are the qualifications?

The Level 2 and 3 training programmes run parallel to one another. In terms of practical training the Level 2 students will receive the same level of training, however when it comes to portfolio work the Level 2 is around 30% of the intensity to that of the Level 3.

You will have two weeks from the start of the training course to change between the level 2 and 3 before your course is set.

The qualifications we deliver are:

NOCN Level 2 Award for Forest School Assistants. Qualification No: 603/2996/8

NOCN Level 3 Certificate for Forest School Leaders. Qualification No: 603/2994/4

Who are the qualifications for?

The **Level 3** Certificate for Forest School Leaders is designed to qualify the learner to become a Forest School practitioner, able to set up and run a Forest School programme. It covers how to facilitate groups in a learner-centred way, and how to manage a Forest School site sustainably. It also covers the practical skills required of a Forest School practitioner. Learners may typically be school and college staff, teachers and teaching assistants, youth workers.

The course is 18 credits in value, is recognised by the Forest School Association (FSA) and eligible for the FSA recognised provider scheme.

The minimum age for access to the qualification is 21.

The **Level 2** Award for Forest School Assistants is designed to qualify a learner to become a Forest School assistant, enabling them to take a proactive role in helping a Forest School practitioner plan and deliver a Forest School programme and supporting the learners. Learners may typically be school and college staff, youth workers, parent helpers and students.

Achievement of this qualification will give the skills and development required to plan and deliver Forest School, including organising activities and working with children and young people.

The minimum age for access to the qualification is 18.

What about recognition of prior learning?

Where applicable the program will look to take note of accredited prior learning. If you have already achieved an accredited qualification at the same level or higher than the programme you are on, you may be able to sign off matching units where appropriate. (we will ask to see award breakdowns and certification).

How is the course organised?

The course is divided up into training and assessment. The training element consists of 10 sessions which cover all the necessary areas to safely run Forest School sessions in your setting. Following the training course you will be given a coursework submission plan and you will be expected to complete your assignments via our online portfolio system (this will include running your own 'Introduction to Forest School' sessions which can be done in your own setting).

How long do I have to complete the coursework?

Each learner will have 12 months from the last day of the practical training course to submit all of their work (allowances will be made for those with special educational needs and extenuating circumstances). Work may be submitted for marking prior to this date and deadlines for pre submissions will be posted throughout the year. There is no limit on the number of times a student may submit their work, however once the hand in date has passed the work will no longer be returned for review and will be marked in accordance with NOCN standardisation procedures.

During the course of the programme you will be expected to get experience working with groups and planning sessions. We are happy to help those who need support in organising this.

What happens if I don't complete part of the course?

You must attend 100% of the course. If you miss out on a session you may have to make up for the session you missed on the next course that is running. You must also complete all of the coursework.

How does the Portfolio work?

We use an online portfolio system using Dropbox (an online file share program). Portfolios are divided into two main files:

Student Resource Folder - This is a shared folder that contains resources, links, handouts and photos from the course. This folder is read only and is accessible by all students, tutors and assessors on your course.

Individual Portfolio - This is a read and write folder which is only accessible to you and the assessor/s. This folder contains all the coursework requirements and space to store all your work. Once you want a piece of work to be marked, simply alert the assessor/s and your work should be marked and feedback given (typically within 1-2 weeks). You don't need to have finished the work in order to send it for marking, meaning that you have access to direct feedback throughout the portfolio process.

What do I need to bring?

You will need to bring with you the following:

Warm clothes - long trousers are recommended and ideally clothing that is quick drying.

Spare warm jumper and a woolly hat - some sessions involve sitting down around the fire and even on a warm day the shade can feel quite cold.

Hat and sun cream - We always hope!

Sturdy footwear - Preferably warm and with ankle and toe protection (so no flip flops).

Waterproof jacket and trousers

Packed Lunch

Plenty to drink - (we also suggest bringing a flask of tea/ coffee with you. We would normally have hot drinks available, however pending Covid advice at the time we may ask you to bring your own).

A suitable face covering of some kind (face mask, Buff, etc).

A completed medical consent form (attached) and any medication required.

A sense of adventure!

We will provide a notebook and pen/pencil for keeping notes throughout the course and any equipment needed. If you are looking to buy equipment for your Forest School (such as tarpaulins, kettles, tools and resources) then we have a shop which as a student you are entitled to a 10% discount.

About the intensive course

The intensive training course runs over 10 days. The days run from 09:30 - 16:30. The first week will be mainly practical training and the second will be a mix of training, practical experience and group work.

Continued Professional Development

As soon as you book on the course, you are entitled to attend monthly skill share workshops for a minimum of 24 months hosted by Newquay Forest School tutors and previous students. These are a great opportunity to build on your existing skills as well as network with other students. These sessions start again in September.

For further information on any aspect of the training course please feel free to contact us.

Jonathan Burfoot (Jo) - Course Manager - 07773 799 755

office@newquayforestschool.co.uk

ADULT MEDICAL / CONSENT FORM



Group:**Date:**

The activities you will be taking part in may involve prolonged periods of physical exercise and therefore it is important for any diagnosed condition to be declared prior to the activity. By signing this form you are agreeing to take part in outdoor activities with Newquay Forest school and understand that the activities will contain lots of fun and an element of risk.

Declaration: I, [INSERT FULL NAME]:.....
am aged 18 or over, have considered the risks involved in undertaking the activity, including the risk of bumps, scrapes, cuts, bruises and other injuries and agree to undertake the activity. I recognise that I am a responsible person and that my decisions and actions have a direct impact on others. I take responsibility for loss, damage or injury caused by or during participation in the activity, except where the loss, damage or injury was caused directly by negligence on the part of Newquay Forest School. I certify that I do not have any medical condition which might make it more likely that I be involved in an incident which could result in injury to myself.

Signed:

Email Address:

Please delete as necessary:

Have you undergone surgery in the last 12 months? Y/N

Have you been diagnosed with any condition which might prevent or restrict your involvement in the above activity? Y/N

Are you currently taking any medication? Y/N

If you have answered yes to any of the above please state any relevant details:

.....
.....

Please record any current medical condition/s, dietary requirements or allergies:

.....
.....

In case of emergency please contact: Name:

Emergency contact number (Next of kin):

Please tick here if you wish to be informed of future events and workshops from Newquay Forest School.

Please tick here if you consent to photographs or video being taken of you which may be used in official publications by Newquay Forest School.