



Learning Without Walls Newsletter

February Edition 2019

Forest School Awards Officer Job
Vacancy

Partnerships



An exciting job opportunity has been created for somebody with enthusiasm, a love of working outdoors and who enjoys inspiring children of all ages. The job will be to help deliver and develop the outreach programme of Learning Without Walls – the Forest School Awards programme. This programme is hugely successful with over 150 schools already involved and demand from hundreds more. For more information click on this link. The job is full-time and permanent.

<https://www.forestschoolawards.org/uploads/26.pdf>

Our thanks go to The Dufferin Foundation for supporting this post.

Closing date for receipt of CV's has been extended to the 23rd March.

Home of the
Forest School Awards



Garvagh Forest School

Garvagh Forest School is a collaboration between six primary schools (Garvagh PS; Carhill IPS; St Patrick's & St Joseph's PS; Kilrea PS; Gorran PS; St Columba's PS) & three pre-schools (Naiscoil Glenullin; Garvagh Community Play Group; Appletree Childcare) situated in Garvagh Forest's 600 acres of broadleaf and conifer woodland. Garvagh Forest School is part of the wider Garvagh People's Forest Project coordinated by Garvagh Development Trust and part funded by the National Lottery Community Fund. This is the first year we have developed a curriculum emerging out of two years of practice and learning in the forest. It is a working document and by the Summer 2019 there will be a whole series of example session plans at the back of the document delivered by all the partners and volunteers.

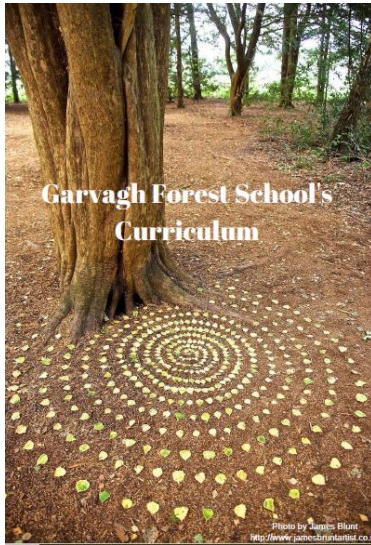


*Karin Eyben, Development Lead,
Garvagh People's Forest Project, taking a
forest school session beside Garvagh pyramid.*

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Garvagh Forest School Curriculum



<https://www.forestschoolorawards.org/misdocuments/907.pdf>

The purpose of this document is to demonstrate, to parents, educationalists and other interested parties, how participation in Garvagh Forest School actively enables the educational philosophy, principles and content of the Northern Ireland Curriculum for children at Key Stage 1 & 2. Our ambition is to develop this document to cover all stages of the Curriculum. The primary schools currently participate in Forest School for 4 weeks per term with each session lasting @x2 hours. The pre-schools participate once a term but they are supplementing this with their own visits to the forest and use of outdoor spaces. This document sets out to explain how participation in Garvagh Forest School makes a positive impact in lifelong learning for all children within a unique context of shared community learning which is aligned with the strategic direction of The Northern Ireland Curriculum Primary framework.

Throughout the document educational insights from the Northern Ireland Curriculum framework have been used. A full copy of the Garvagh Curriculum is available in the Forest School Awards website in the Outdoor Activities section.



	THEME	Learning Intention	Well Being	Child's Passion	Curriculum Links
WEEK 01	Finding Your Place	Discovering Trees	Noticing, Moving, Connecting, Learning	Making	Interdependence Place; Numeracy Maths; Language Literacy; World Around us
WEEK 02	Finding Your Way	Intro to Map in school & forest	Noticing Learning Moving Connecting	Exploring	World Around Us Maths & Numeracy Thinking & Problem Solving Skills
WEEK 03	Finding Your Spark	Using colours & shapes of autumn to create art	Noticing Learning Connecting	Making	World Around Us Art & Design
WEEK 04	Finding Your Element	Learning how to safely build & put out a fire	Learning Moving Noticing Connecting	'Doing grown up, things'	Communication Thinking Skills Problem Solving Decision Making Working with others; Self Management; Managing Risk.

Home of the Forest School Awards



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NIFSA Membership

As a small independent charity operating in Northern Ireland we rely enormously on your membership.

Annual membership is £100 and we believe offers good value for money.

Follow the link to subscribe now!

<https://www.forestschoolawards.org/cgi-bin/main.cgi?page=NIFSAMembership;vat=1544014101>

What do you get for your membership?

- a) Access to Member's Section of the Forest School Awards website which gives information on outdoor lessons, research and much more.
- b) A section on the website exclusively for your own organisation.
- c) Heavily discounted forest school sessions at Clondeboye Estate, Bangor.
- d) Area to record Forest School activities and produce Eco-Schools Reports.
- e) Free attendance for 2 members to the annual NIFSA conference.
- f) Monthly Learning Without Walls Newsletter.
- g) Entry into the Nature Rangers programme to encourage you to do 6 Forest School sessions every year.
- h) Opportunity to train and mentor other staff within your organisation as Forest School Leaders for only £30 Open College Network registration fee.

- i) We are constantly developing new initiatives and forming new partnerships. We are currently working on an accreditation programme and other exciting programmes. Watch this space.

Forest School Family



Thank you to Lorraine Brown, Assistant Manager of Clondeboye Nature Rangers, for starting the NIFSA Forest School Family Facebook site.

<https://www.facebook.com/NIFSA-Forest-School-Family-307581329759766/>

Click on the link above and like and follow the page. There will be regular posts to give you inspirational ideas when you are visiting local parks with your family.

Champion Forest Schools

We are in the process of establishing Champion Forest Schools across Northern Ireland. They will offer mentoring and support to schools and organisations wanting to become an official Forest School.

