



# Forest School Programme 2019

**Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough  
Council  
Application Pack**

**Northern Ireland Forest School Association**

**Email:** [brian.poots@ntlworld.com](mailto:brian.poots@ntlworld.com)

**Web:** [www.nifsa.org.uk](http://www.nifsa.org.uk)

## Introduction

The Forest School Development Package is aimed at promoting sustainable outdoor education programmes to inspire innovative teaching methods encouraging curiosity and exploration whilst instilling a sense of community and civic pride within young people. The programme is funded by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and delivered by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association.

Two schools will be selected to take part in the programme in 2019/20 and other schools will be offered an opportunity to take part in subsequent years.

The Forest School Development Package aims to support schools to:

- Identify a local Council park that is within safe walking distance to the school
- Develop an area within the park to use as an outdoor classroom
- Train a member of staff in Forest School Leadership
- Become confident and competent to deliver outdoor sessions on a regular basis
- Inspire children to explore their local environment and by doing so teach them to respect their local natural environment.

Selected schools will receive:-

- A 6 session programme (1 session per week) at a time agreed between the school and NIFSA. This will provide training and assessment to enable the selected teacher to qualify as a Forest School Leader Level 3
- A Forest School Starter Kit Bag including Learning Resources
- NIFSA Nature Ranger Certificates for participating pupils

On successful completion of the 6 session programme and the submission of a learning portfolio the teacher will receive a Level 3 Forest School Certificate. Details of the full qualification are available at:

<http://nifsa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Qualification-Specification-L3-Award-in-Leadership-in-Forest-Schools.pdf>

To take part in this exciting programme, schools are requested to complete the attached application. Two schools will be selected per school year to participate. Selection will take place by a panel of elected members.

To be considered schools will be required to:-

- Commit one class and teacher to the 6 sessions training programme. The teacher will also be required to complete and submit the learning portfolio.
- Select a Council owned park/open space which the school can easily visit on a regular basis.
- Commit to providing appropriate Adult: Child ratios to enable outdoor learning on site.
- Commit to continue participation in the Forest Schools programme after the 6 session programme has been completed. This needs to be a minimum of 1 visit per season.
- Agree to an annual subscription to Northern Ireland Forest Schools Association at £35 per year.

## 1. The Application Process

Completed applications must be submitted to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council by 12noon on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019. **Applications received after this deadline will not be considered.**

Please email your completed application to:

[lindsay.houston@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk](mailto:lindsay.houston@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

or by post:-

Lindsay Houston  
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council  
Antrim Civic Centre  
Stiles Way  
Antrim  
BT41 2UB

## Forest School Development Programme - Application Form 2017

### Section 1: School Details

Name & Address of School	
Contact name	
Email Address	
Phone Number	

### Section 2: Proposed Forest School site and project

		<i>For office use only</i>
Name of proposed Council Park/Open Space		Site within ANBC Yes/No  Site owned/managed by ANBC Yes/no
How do you propose to travel to the site? Please provide detail to include any financial considerations.		Walking? Bus – provided by school? Funds in place? Lifts from teachers/parents?
Proposed year group		
Estimated number of pupils/children regularly attending		Min 10 Max 30
<b>How would your school benefit from winning the Forest School Development Package?</b> (100 words)		

**How will you encourage parents/other volunteers to become involved?** (100 words)

(Forest School sessions try to provide a high adult:pupil ratio for safety and learning benefits. Parents are often encouraged to participate)

**How do you propose promoting the Forest School Programme within your school and community?** (100 words)

**How do you plan to continue the Forest School Programme in future years?**

**If you have previously received support from the Council to participate in a Forest School programme?  
(Please provide details).**

The information provided is accurate and I understand that if successful I must adhere to the commitments outlined.

Signature.....

Name.....

Date.....