



Insurance:

Members would like to have a listing, if possible of companies and brokers who are currently offering coverage which is suitable for operating forest school under, with the potential for advocating to insurers about Forest School down the line and possibly offering some kind of group scheme for insurance cover.

Land Access:

- Database of land currently being used and ownership (Coillte, OPW, County Councils, private, practitioner owned, etc)
- Advocacy work for Forest School with corporate landowners such as Coillte, OPW, etc. around what FS is.
- Information resources to give to landowners about what FS is, template letters to approach landowners, brochures around elements of woodland management or impact

Garda Vetting:

Practitioners would like to be able to apply for Garda vetting through IFSA.

Awareness Raising & FS Practitioner

Visibility:

- National Forest School Day / Open day style events in forest schools around the country
- Database of all practicing Forest School leaders & those available for freelance Forest School work & locations
- Raising the description / profile of members

Professionalism:

Develop Quality Standards for Forest School leaders in Ireland

Training:

Opportunities to continue learning & development for members including:

- CPD/master classes to be organised by IFSA
- External workshops highlighted on website
- Accredited and non-accredited training
- Good practice (mentoring?)
- Central locations
 - Topics to include:**
 - foraging/plant ID, bushcraft, storytelling, working with children with additional needs (behavioural & physical & sensorial), reflective practice
- QQI accredited training

Networking & Practitioner Supports:

- Bi-monthly regional meetings, local to practitioners which are brief and simple — will require minimal organisation by a host — IFSA to publicise
- Skill-sharing and practice sharing — a database of practitioners & affiliates who are happy to be shadowed and/or host Forest School site visits

- Forum (online?) discussion group to share information, resources, share best practice, stories, songs etc.

Research:

A database of research papers around Forest School (host on website?)

Website – Member Section & Public Section:

Member Section

- (Resource Development needed)
- Videos demonstrating safety measures in Forest School
- Songs, stories & games
- How to guide for setting up a Forest School
- Insurance & land access information (as outlined above)
- Documents interesting Forest School to schools, landowners, template handbook etc.

Public Section

- Map and Listing of Forest School leaders to include – location, - qualifications – specific areas (of interest or speciality?) – contact details
- Training calendar of courses listed on website
- Testimonials from children/parents/teachers/leaders involved in Forest School in Ireland
- Information on benefit-risk analysis approach and safety videos on controlling for safety in Forest School
- Templates/resources to explain Forest School e.g. benefits, principles, practicalities

Advocacy/Interagency Working:

- Creating strategic links with other organisations involved in outdoor education, environment etc. some suggestions include: woodland trust, leaf, leave no trace
- Linking to education sector – teaching council, principals, dept of education, green schools programme, curriculum links to be established at primary & preschool level

General or Other:

- Advice on how to get started as a forest school leader
- Quarterly newsletter in include information about upcoming grant applications which may interest Forest School leaders
- Promotion of Risk/Benefit assessment approach used in Forest School
- Facilitate information sharing around insurance, resources, tools etc.
- Support more children to access Forest School
- A practitioner's guide to Forest School
- Marketing and PR resources
- Ground Forest School in Ireland and Irish Culture – heritage, language, story, etc.
- Document the differences between Forest School and other types of outdoor learning