

# Informed Consent Form for Parents, Guardians and Carers

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

This form seeks your informed consent. This consent allows your outdoor education session leader to collect and process your name and email and the first name of your child. This information will be used to create a student record on the Nature-based Education, Tracking, and Application (NETA). This document is designed to provide information on how your data and the participant's data will be used, where it will be stored, and how it will contribute to research into outdoor education and to allow you to give informed consent for the use of this data.

## About NETA.

NETA is a prototype online web application (APP), designed to support outdoor education by facilitating the collection of feedback through surveys. These surveys measure changes over time in five key areas of interest: *confidence, creativity, resilience, independence and wellbeing*. Surveys consist of 25 linked questions and will be sent three times to the supplied email address – Before the outdoor education programme begins to give us an idea about the situation before sessions begin, at the mid-point of the programme to give us an idea about how effective the sessions are and at the end or just after the end of the programme to see how things have changed over time. This prototype is designed to be used with children 8 years +.

These surveys help evaluate the impact of nature-based learning experiences on two levels.

Firstly, they help your session leader to advocate for outdoor education by measuring the effectiveness of sessions, on participants and help them to show the level of development in the five areas over time. This helps leaders' reflection and catalyses improvements in delivery.

Secondly, the survey responses are used to improve the understanding of outdoor education and contribute to broader research efforts, by illustrating positive trends and how they present in different groups (e.g. adults or children).

## About the testing phase of the prototype

NETA is a prototype application and is currently being tested for functionality, safety and user experience. Whilst we have done everything, we can think of to protect your data during the testing phase; it is only through testing that we can fully evaluate the functionality of the app. The risk is minimal as we collect the bare minimum of data. To ensure that your data is as safe, the testing phase is of a finite length of no more than 24 months, after which your data will be deleted as we begin the creation of a new updated version, NETA 2.0.

## Data Collection and Use

The FSA take data security very seriously and have designed this process with advice from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) on the creation of this consent process in line with GDPR regulations. With your consent, the above named will:

- Collect your child's first name and your name and email address to create a student record on the NETA platform.
- Use the provided email address to send surveys to you and your child's participation in outdoor education activities.
- Use survey responses to illustrate the effect of sessions in five key areas, Resilience, Independence, Creativity, Wellbeing and Confidence through feedback to the school, funders or delivery organisations (the company that runs the outdoor education sessions).

## Data Storage and Security

All personal data (names and email addresses) collected through NETA is securely stored on encrypted servers located in the United Kingdom. Access to this data is strictly limited to authorised personnel, for the purpose of managing student records and sending surveys. Data is handled in compliance with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) to ensure privacy and security.

## Sharing Anonymised Data

With your consent, anonymised survey responses (containing no personally identifiable information) will be shared with the Forest School Association (FSA), the professional body for Forest School in the UK. The FSA will use this data as part of a longitudinal, mass-participation research project aimed at understanding the benefits and impact of outdoor education.

## Purpose of the Research

The data collected through NETA will be used to deepen our understanding of the role of outdoor education in child and personal development and learning and how this is experienced by students and how it is observed by parents, guardians and carers and session leaders. By participating, you are contributing to a growing body of evidence that may shape future educational policies and practices, promoting the value of nature-based education.

## Your Rights using NETA

- Your consent is voluntary, and you may withdraw it at any time by contacting the session leader by email.
- If you want to withdraw your consent, you may also request the deletion of your child's student record. This record will be deleted by your session leader in a reasonable time frame from the NETA platform, and no further surveys will be sent.
- The FSA are unable to delete anonymised data that has already been shared with us as it contains no identifiable information.
- You have the right to request access to your child's data, request corrections, or raise concerns about data handling by contacting your outdoor learning session leader.

## NETA Consent Declaration

By signing below, I confirm that I have parental responsibility and I have read and understood the information provided by the FSA about the NETA platform, including how my data and my child's data will be collected, stored, and used.

**Once completed please return this page to your outdoor education or Forest School session leader.**

I have obtained consent from my child to enter them in to NETA's survey process  (Please check/tic the box if you have consent)

In my position of parent, guardian or carer, I have authority to consent to the following:  Please check/tic the box if you consent to: -

- Taking part in this Beta test phase of NETA
- The outdoor learning session leader to use the supplied data in the form below including my child's name and my name and email address to create a student record on NETA.
- NETA sending surveys to the provided email for myself and my child to complete three times, before the programme begins, midway through the programme and at the end of the programme.
- Allowing NETA to share the anonymised scored and raw responses of the surveys with the Forest School Association (FSA) for use in longitudinal research projects and to promote outdoor education and Forest School.
- The use of this data by the FSA to improve understanding of outdoor education and inform future educational policy and promote Forest School or other forms of outdoor education.

**Parent/Guardian/Carer Signature:** (sign here>>)

**Date:** (please add today's date here>>)

Please provide the following information for your session leader to set up the student record for your child.

Parent/Guardian Name:

Parent or Guardian email address

Child's First Name:

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your outdoor learning session leader.

**Thank you for supporting outdoor education, testing NETA and contributing to this important research.**