**A close up of a sign

Description automatically generated**

**COVID-19 Policy**

This policy must be read in conjunction with our Covid-19 risk assessment.

We believe strongly in the importance of connection with nature as part of our well being and consider our work to provide much needed relaxing, enjoyable and community time based in nature.

As such, Into The Green Forest School and Outdoor Learning is committed to the Health Safety and Wellbeing of its customers and the wider community.

Whilst the Coronavirus pandemic is at work amongst our communities it is vital that we open responsibly and carefully, adhering to all the Government and Scientific guidelines and information. We understand that it is possible for the situation to change quickly and we commit to respond appropriately and proportionately.

As a business we will follow guidance, ensure COVID secure working spaces and maintain and regularly update our risk assessment. Our policy and Risk Assessment will be shared with participating families and parents/carers of unaccompanied children and young people. It is available at the point of booking and on our website. The Covid-19 risk assessment is in addition to our current risk assessments covering sites, tool use, fires and cooking, weather and First Aid. Risk assessments are submitted to landowners of our sites as a pre-requisite to event permission being given- the Covid risk assessment will undergo due consideration in the same way.

We reserve the right to adapt and evolve our practice and activity offering according to our dynamic risk assessment.

As part of our normal operating practice we discuss and explain risk and behavioural expectations and COVID-19 procedures will be added to the group briefing at each session.

We expect our customers, staff and volunteers to adhere to government guidance. This is especially important where a customer or member of their household is feeling unwell with Coronavirus symptoms. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>). They must return home immediately, ask for a Covid-19 test, remain at home until a negative test is given and self-isolate. Members of the household must self-isolate for 14 days. Into The Green will not take bookings from infected households for the foreseeable future as a precautionary measure. We expect our customers to agree to their details being passed on if/when we are contacted by the Governments Test and Trace Service.

It is possible that with a second outbreak of, or localised spike in, Covid-19 Into The Green would need to lockdown and close for business possibly at short notice. We will make our best endeavours to contact all participants in that case and arrange refunds where appropriate.

We at Into The Green are sure that we will take all reasonable proportions to lessen the risk of Covid-19 transmission during our sessions, however participants must understand that some risk is always present in Forest School settings.

Matt Meadows

Into The Green Forest School