**FINCH Interview Topic Guide- Headteacher/Management Staff (Intervention)**

**Preamble**

* *Thank you for consenting to take part in this interview. It may take up 45 minutes, but we can stop at any time if you need to.*
* *Just to remind you, you do not have to answer all the questions and there are no right or wrong answers. We just want to hear your views.*
* *I may ask you to explain something further in the interview. This is not because you are not being clear, but because when presenting this work, we need to use your words rather than ours to explain things.*
* *We will audio record this interview but will not name you in any reports or publications arising from this work. The audio files will be stored securely and accessed only by the research team.*
* *Do you have any questions before we start?*

**SWITCH ON RECORDER**

***\*\*\*Complete the consent form verbally if it has not been returned electronically***

**Background**

1. Can you tell me a little bit about you, how long have you been working as a **<insert role>?]**

**Knowledge of Forest Schools**

1. Had you heard of Forest School before the FINCH study?

*[Prompt: what did you hear, see, know? Any previous training or experience?]*

1. What motivated you to express an interest in taking part in FINCH?

*[Prompt: Benefits of the study to school, preparation/plans to do something similar in the school, align with school ethos, personal interest, forest school training and community of practice, payment incentive?]*

*[Probe: Would you have been less likely to take part if these training opportunities weren’t offered?]*

1. What is your opinion on outdoor learning with children particularly in mainstream education?

*[Prompt: positives, negatives, barriers or enablers to implementation in the mainstream curriculum)*

1. What other outdoor learning opportunities does your school currently offer to pupils?

*[Prompt: During school time, extra-curricular clubs, Doing what? How is that different to Forest School, why do you feel that this is important?]*

**Impact of Forest School**

1. On the whole, how do you feel that the Forest School sessions have been received by the children in the class at your school?

*[Prompt: Were you involved or observe any of the sessions that were being delivered? Have the children commented on whether they like or dislike Forest School, any feedback from Parents or other staff members at the school?]*

1. What differences have you noticed, or other people have noticed in the children, if any?

*[Prompt: Attendance, attainment, mental health benefits, behaviour, concentration, learning, confidence? Has there been any feedback from Parents or other staff members at the school?]*

1. What intentions are there to continue Forest School at your school once the school has finished in the study?

*[Prompt: Why are/aren’t doing this? Do they plan to extend it to other year groups & children and why?]*

**Trial processes and implementation**

1. What is your opinion on how the research team explained the study and the process to you, the class involved and parents/carers?

*[Prompt: Information session, communication, letters and informational material that was distributed. Is there anything that we could have done better?]*

1. Can you talk me through any logistical, strategic and resource considerations you had to make to ensure that you were able to deliver Forest School, if any?

*[Prompt: Setting for Forest School, adequate staff ratios, confidence of staff, adequate resources (clothing, tools etc) Do you feel that this took a lot of time/planning? Was this within your expectations?]*

1. How did you find parental engagement with the study? Can you tell me some of the things you did to ensure that parents were communicated to about the study and to also encourage the parental questionnaire return?

*[Prompt: <insert school parental questionnaire return rate> ask them how they managed to maintain this figure; what recommendations they would have for other schools; did they have any feedback from parents around this; is there anything we could have done to help with parental engagement?]*

1. Did you engage in any of the follow-up support available from the research team and Forest School trainers, if so, how helpful was it? If not, why?

*[Prompt: Community of Practice sessions, have they used any of the training, advice, knowledge]*

**Final thoughts**

1. How would you sum up your experience in taking part in FINCH?

[Prompt: Would you recommend taking part in research to other schools? Is there anything the research team could have done differently? Any recommendations?]

**Ending the interview**

* *Is there anything else that you would like to say or anything you thought you wanted to discuss that we have not talked about today?*
* *Do you have any questions for me?*

**Thank you very much for taking part.**

**SWITCH OFF RECORDER**