**FINCH Interview Topic Guide – Parent/carer**

**Preamble**

* Thank you for consenting to take part in this interview. It may take up to 45 minutes, but we can stop at any time.
* 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.

* You will be reimbursed with a **£25 voucher (either Amazon or Love2Shop)**
* Do you have any questions before we start?

To save me having to take notes during our conversation it would be helpful for me to audio record the interview *[show them the recorder]*. The recordings will be stored securely and accessed only by the research team. Can I just confirm you are happy to have your voice recorded?

If Yes, **SWITCH ON RECORDER**

***\*\*\*Complete the consent form verbally if it has not been returned electronically. Bring a copy with you and read out the questions exactly as they appear.***

**Background**

1. If someone asked you to describe your child, what would you say? To what extent would you consider them outdoorsy?

*[Prompt: Tell me about your child’s school, class, any SEND needs/difficulties, general temperament of the child, to what extent do they enjoy being outside, etc]*

1. Can you tell me about how you and your family feel about nature and the outdoors?

*[Prompt: how often does your family go into nature? Can you talk about any places you enjoy visiting, what are your favourite outdoor areas, can you talk about your families’ hobbies]*

**Previous knowledge of Forest Schools**

1. Did you know about forest schools before the FINCH study?

*[Prompt: what did you hear, see, know, any previous experience with Forest Schools?]*

1. What do you think Forest School is? Do you think Forest School could help your child?? If so, how?

**Forest School impact**

1. How would you describe your child’s overall experience of Forest School sessions?

*[Prompt: To what extent was it positive/negative? To what extent did they look forward to the sessions? Did they talk to you about how they felt about it and if so, what did they say?]*

1. Can you tell me about anything your child liked about Forest School? What about anything they didn’t like?

*[Prompt: How much (if at all) did your child talk about it to you, and to what extend did they refer to it at home?]*

1. Can you talk me through anything you had concerns about, or didn’t like about the Forest School sessions?

*[Prompt: Any particular activities you were worried about? Did you talk to the class teacher about this and if so, what did they say?]*

1. Do you think the Forest School has resulted in any changes for your child or your family? Has it impacted their mental health? Please describe.

*[Prompt: To what extent have you noticed anything, or has anyone else commented about any changes in your child? To what extent (if at all) has your child’s willingness to be outdoors changed? Can you talk me through whether this has impacted activities you do as a family?] [Prompt: confidence, overcoming fears, happiness, concentration, relaxation, interest etc…]*

1. Do you think the Forest School has impacted your child’s mental health in any way? If so how?

*[Prompt: To what extent have you noticed anything, or has anyone*

1. To what extent (if at all) has their interest and confidence with nature changed?

*[Prompt: what did they have an interest in? Were they cautious/scared of anything at first? Do they have any new knowledge and if so, what? Tell me about any changes in their desire to be outside?]*

**Trial processes**

1. What did you think about how you found out about the study and the information you received?

*[Prompt: how well were you informed? Did you attend the information session? How well was the study explained in letters and other communications? To what extent did you understand what was happening and when? To what extent did you feel able to speak to someone if you wanted to ask a question? Is there anything else the research team could have done? Do you remember looking at any of the newsletters and what were your opinions about them?]*

1. How did you find completing the parent questionnaires?

*[Prompt: To what extend did it match your expectations about how long they would take to complete? What did you think to the questions? Tell me about how relevant/appropriate you felt the questions were? Talk me through any difficulties in completing them?]*

1. Please let me know any suggestions on how we can better engage parents and carers in research, particularly in a school context?

*[Prompt: What could do to make this process easier/less burdensome for parents/carers?]*

**Ending the interview**

* Is there anything else that you would like to say or anything you wanted to discuss that we have not talked about today?
* So just to summarise [paraphrase what they liked and disliked about Forest School], is there anything else you would like to tell me about what you liked or disliked about Forest School?
* Do you have any questions for me?

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

**SWITCH OFF RECORDER**