**FINCH Interview Topic Guide- SEND Teacher (Intervention)**

**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 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 teaching/supporting children?

*[Prompt: Do you have any expertise with particular types of children, e.g., disabilities, SEND children, or are you employed to assist with these children in the classroom? How many children do you have to support in the classroom?]*

1. Can you tell me more specifically about the range of difficulties experienced by children you support in the class that involved in FINCH?
2. What thoughts do you have about Forest School and the impact this may have in an educational setting with regards to children with SEND needs?

*[Prompt: Perceived positives/negatives, inclusion issues, any first hand experiences of supporting outdoor learning with children with SEND etc]*

**Impact of Forest School on children with SEND needs in your class**

1. Were you involved in any aspects of the Forest School sessions? If so, what was your involvement?
2. What did the children/pupils with SEND needs seem to like most about the forest school?

*[Prompt: Do the children they talk about it outside of the forest school lessons?]*

1. What didn’t they like?

*[Prompt: What arrangements were made if they didn’t like a particular activity, or did not get involved in elements of Forest School?]*

1. What differences have you noticed, or other people have noticed as a result of engaging with Forest School in this particular group of children or the children you support, 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. Do you think the forest school had any impact on any aspects of their mental health?

*[Prompt: confidence, overcoming fears, happiness, concentration, relaxation, interest etc…ask if this was during and/or after the sessions]*

1. Why do you think Forest School impacted on mental health?

*[if applicable, rephrase to why do you think Forest School had not impact on child mental health?*

*Prompt: Were there any particular sessions, activities or topics that stood out to you as having a particularly positive on children’s mental health?]*

**Trial processes**

1. How did the children you support find the process of completing their questionnaires? *[Prompt: Did you have to put in special measures/support to ensure that they were able to complete them? Were the questions relevant/appropriate for understanding?]*
2. Is there anything that we could have done to make this data collection process easier for this group of children?
3. How did you find parental engagement with the study? Did you receive any feedback from parents around their child being involved with the study, or about the questionnaires?

*[Prompt: did they have any feedback from parents around this; What did they think to the questions (SDQ) is there anything we could have done to help with parental engagement? Were there any concerns raised by parents?]*

**Final thoughts**

1. Do you have any advice or recommendations for involving children with SEND needs in research, particularly in schools?

*[Prompt: is there anything we could have done differently? Any oversights?]*

**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**