**FINCH Interview Topic Guide- Headteacher/Management staff (Control)**

**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>?**

**Previous knowledge of Forest Schools**

1. Had you heard of forest schools before the FINCH study?

*[Prompt: what did you hear, see, know?]*

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 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]*

1. Has your school made any changes to your outdoor learning offer or practice as a result of the training or community of practice, even though you're a control school?  
   *[Probe: Any changes in ethos, curriculum plans, use of outdoor space, or staff mindset?]*
2. What intentions are there to implement Forest School into your school once the school has finished in the study?

*[Prompt: What preparations have they made? Have they used any of the training, advice, applied for grants, barriers and enablers to this, etc]*

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]*

**Trial processes and implementation**

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

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

1. How did you feel when you were informed that you were a control school?

*[Prompt: Did this have an impact on the children and yourself? How did you manage motivation, do you feel it had an impact on this?]*

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?]*

**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**