



Forest School



What is Forest School?

Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.

Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and complements the wider context of outdoor and woodland education.

Key points:

- Sessions happen regularly and for as long as possible so children have opportunity to see their own progress over a period of time
- Sessions teach children to manage risk rather than avoid it
- Everyone is entitled plan their own learning in Forest School - the teacher led activity does not have to be done by everyone

4 Forest School Rules

1. Look where you are going (up and down!)
2. Walk everywhere in Forest School
3. Keep your hands away from your mouth
4. Drag sticks behind you

Forest School Area

In order for the children to follow the rules in Forest School they have to be adhered to all the time. If we say walk in Forest School that has to apply even when they are passing through— if we are consistent the children will realise the risk is real all the time. We do not allow the children to play in the fire pit area - older children may obviously understand the risk of a fire but young children do not. If we allow children to play in there when there isn't a fire they may be tempted even when there is.

Please check the Forest School area before you take children in to ensure that you are aware of all of the immediate risks. There may have been high winds in the night or a project left by a previous group and it is better to check first. There are risk assessments available to help you in the Forest School folder in the shelter.



The Fire Pit

- Only enter the fire pit from the left hand gap and exit from the right hand gap
- Children to walk all the way around the fire pit and sit down next to each other.
- Children must sit down in the order that they come in, they cannot cross over the fire pit to sit next to a friend.
- Children are not allowed to walk over the fire pit even when there is not a fire.
- The first child to exit the fire pit area is the one closest to the exit gap

If we teach the children to come in like this and exit then we will avoid the children walking too close to the fire. A campfire should only be led by a FS level 3 leader and a first aider must also be present. It depends on the age of the children as to how many children can work on the fire with a FS leader.

Nursery 1:1

Reception and KS1 1:2

Year 3 and 4 1:3

Year 5 and 6 1:4

Finally and Importantly

Children should have fun in Forest School. It is a space for children to develop their physical gross and fine motor skills. It gives children the opportunity for communication and team work experiences. It should support the children to be adventurous in a safe way and it will hopefully give our children the independent skills they need too.