

Curriculum Aims for Forest School



- Children will have the opportunity to develop a connection with the natural world by participating in Forest School sessions in all seasons and most weathers.
- Children’s holistic development is supported when participating in Forest School, with a particular focus on developing social and emotional communication skills.
- Children will also have the opportunity to develop a range of creative and artistic skills using a range of natural resources; individuality and self-expression are highly valued, with emphasis being placed on process over product.
- Children have the opportunity to take supported risks and develop tool use and fire skills.

Develop a love of learning through children understanding the purpose of each lesson then engaging in collaborative activities and memorable experiences		
L	Love	<p>Children develop a love for, and an understanding of how to look after, the natural world and the environment.</p> <p>A love for learning is promoted by giving children the opportunity to follow their own interests and inspirations, leading their own learning whilst adults facilitate as ‘guides on the side’.</p> <p>Children have the opportunity to participate in a range of memorable experiences whilst developing outdoor skills such as shelter building and cooking on campfires.</p>
E	Explore	<p>Develop curiosity through active learning, where children ask questions and learn from their mistakes, which are vital skills in an ever changing world</p> <p>Children have the opportunity to explore the natural world, learning about the effects of weather and seasons, whilst observing and experiencing these first hand, seeing the impact on flora and fauna.</p> <p>Children have the opportunity to explore their own local area and develop an understanding and respect for this.</p> <p>Children can explore their own curiosities, following their own interests and leading their own learning, whilst being supported and facilitated by adults when needed.</p>
A	Aspire	<p>Develop children’s independence and ownership of their learning so they aim high and continuously develop</p> <p>Forest School is delivered as a spiral curriculum, with many opportunities for children to build upon skills they have learnt in previous sessions and work towards developing independence with these.</p> <p>Children reflect on their own learning and share their successes with others.</p> <p>Holistic development is promoted and supported, reflected in the way that adults supporting at Forest School behave so children aspire to be thoughtful, supportive, reflective and resilient learners.</p>

R	Respect	<p>Develop children’s respect for themselves, each other, and the environment so they celebrate diversity and difference in a democratic community</p>
		<p>Respect for others and the environment is promoted through the ethos of Forest School sessions which is upheld by the Forest School leader.</p> <p>Children are encouraged to be respectful of others when working together and by developing their skills to negotiate social interactions.</p> <p>Diversity and difference is celebrated and reflected on through the different paths children choose to take with their learning.</p>
N	Nurture	<p>Develop children’s understanding of mental, spiritual and physical health, including strategies to employ when facing challenges in these areas</p>
		<p>Mental wellbeing is a key focus during Forest School sessions, with many opportunities to develop mindfulness skills.</p> <p>Children can reap the benefits of time spent in nature, which is supported by the findings of many scientific studies.</p> <p>Development of the social, physical, intellectual, communication, emotional and spiritual self is promoted through the Forest School ethos and principles and is the key responsibility of the Forest School leader to ensure this is threaded throughout sessions.</p>