

Forest School at Stockham Primary.

Vision Statement.

Forest School aims to encourage all learners:

To grow alongside nature.

To bravely face new challenges with confidence.

To show resilience when faced with difficulties.

To show independence when developing their own interests and abilities.

To experiment and discover by attempting “real” hands-on activities.

To enjoy calm times to reflect, think and just be themselves.

To value themselves, each other and their environment.

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Principles.

1) Forest School is a long term learning opportunity that takes place in a natural environment throughout the year in all weathers.

Forest School aims to foster a partnership between pupils, parents and teaching staff to deepen our understanding and shape future learning experiences.

2) Forest School aims to provide a space to explore and discover nature. Foster a relationship with our environment and heighten awareness of the ecological impact we have on our surroundings.

Forest School uses natural resources whilst considering sustainability to stimulate and extend imagination and curiosity.

3) Forest School aims to provide a caring thoughtful learning platform where all involved can grow in confidence resilience and independence, both physically and psychologically (spiritually).

Forest School aims to link where possible school work and life experiences in a meaningful way with “real” hands-on practical investigations.

4) Forest School offers opportunities to push boundaries to try new things and take appropriate risks.

Forest School encourages self-motivation and promotes a positive attitude to personal challenges.

The use of tools and fire form a part of the Forest School Programme following the interests and abilities of the learners.

Strict safety procedures are adhered to and robust risk assessments in place.

The risk benefit process sets out clearly what each learner group could gain from their experiences.

Children and adults work together to understand and manage the risks wisely.

5) Forest School is run by qualified staff who seek to continually develop their professional practice.

Leaders must hold Level 3 Forest School qualification.

The adult to child ratio is high and dependant on the age / ability of the group.

Adults who are regularly involved in Forest School activities should be covered by the DBS system.

All adults should be aware of policies and procedures relating to Forest School.

6) Forest School offers a wide range of learner-centred play based learning opportunities.

Planning to achieve this is achieved by observation of and communication with all involved.

Play and choice are integral features of Forest School. Equal value is given to all ages, abilities and learning styles.

Forest School champions time for calm reflection, understanding of achievements and the development of emotional intelligence in order to plan our next adventures.