Forest Schools Curriculum Overview

PERRAN-AR-WORTHAL CP SCHOOL

Every Moment Matters

Ethos

Forest School is a unique educational experience and process that offers children the opportunity to succeed and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland environment. Children engage in motivating and achievable tasks and activities throughout the year and in almost all weathers, with the appropriate footwear and clothing. Children will work with tools, play, learn and begin to understand the boundaries of behaviour: both physical and social. They will grow in confidence, self- esteem and motivation whilst developing an understanding of the natural world.

Origins and Purpose

The Forest School concept originates in Denmark, originally aimed at pre-school children, where it was found that children who had attended forest school then arrived at school with strong social and communication skills, having the ability to work in groups effectively, generally had high self-esteem and a confidence in their own abilities. These foundations helped them to raise their academic achievements

Aims

The children will be encouraged to:

- develop personal and social skills
- work through practical problems and challenges
- use tools to create, build or manage
- discover how they learn best
- pursue knowledge that interests them
- learn how to manage failures
- build confidence in decision making and evaluating risk
- develop practical skills

- understand the benefits of a balanced and healthy lifestyle
- explore connections between humans, wildlife and the Earth
- regularly experience achievement and success
- reflect on learning and experiences
- develop their language and communication skills
- improve physical motor skills
- become more motivated
- improve their concentration skills
- improve their communication
- explore the world through all the senses available to them.

Timetable

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Year 6	Year 3	Year 5	Year 4	Year 2	Year 1

Progression of Skills

In each year group, the children will be encouraged to increase their independence as they learn, practise and apply essential outdoor-learning skills. As the children will be outside most of the time, the activities the children participate in will depend greatly on the weather. As forest school is child led, the children will have the opportunity to engage in a range of activities that they have helped to construct. Some may use the material provided to do something completely different and explore the boundaries of independent learning.

Skill 1: Fire (Including food and drink prep and cooking)		
Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
I can collect raw materials. I can familiarise myself with firesteel or other igniting tool and have attempted to use it. I can respect the fire and follow instructions around the fire pit.	I can collect raw material (wet or dry, snappy or rotten). I can begin to use a firesteel. I can display good behaviour for learning around the fire pit and understand risk. I can show interest in different fire-lays.	I can show good knowledge of the fire triangle I can use a firesteel to light fire. I can maintain the fire. I can demonstrate safe behaviour around the fire. I can light fire using different fire-lays
Skill 2: Play and Interaction (Including craft and den building)		
Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
I can join in with my peers with minimal encouragement. I can talk to my peers about the learning.	I can instigate play and encourage others to join me. I can interact with my peers without support.	I can play safely and independently and take charge of my learning. I can display good social skills with my peers
Skill 3: Tool Use		
Key Stage 1	Lower Key Stage 2	Upper Key Stage 2
I can show interest in tool use. I can use a peeler. I can learn how to be safe with tools. I can understand how to create natural items using raw materials.	I can understand the use of a tool for a particular job. I can use a fixed blade with support. I can show signs of good fine and gross motor skills. I can apply my skills to make crafts from natural materials with support.	I can show an increasing amount of confidence with tool use. I can use a fixed blade independently. I can demonstrate safe practise when using all tools. I can apply my skills to make crafts from natural materials.