



Naunton Park Primary School

Forest School Policy

Last review date: April 2024
Next review date: July 2026

1.0 Introduction and aims

Our Forest School sessions aim to support pupils to develop a love of the great outdoors, to develop their physical skills and support their mental health. Sessions are held outdoors in a designated area that is specifically used for Forest School. Through a range of carefully prepared activities and the opportunity to play we hope that children at Naunton Park Primary:

- Grow alongside nature.
- Bravely face new challenges with confidence.
- Show resilience when faced with difficulties.
- Show independence and cooperation when developing their own interests and abilities.
- Share their skills and knowledge to become a teacher as well as a pupil.
- Experiment and discover by attempting “real” hands-on activities.
- Reflect, think and follow their own paths of enquiry.
- Value themselves, each other and their environment.
- Connect to nature and play!

2.0 Objectives

The objectives of Forest School at Naunton Park Primary School are to:

- To develop skilful use of the body by climbing safely.
- To develop fine and gross motor skills through a range of activities.
- To improve observational skills connect to nature by looking at and discussing seasonal changes of flora and fauna and noting different weather conditions.
- To choose which activities to pursue and develop personal creativity.
- To develop the ability to work independently, and communicate with and respond positively towards others. (Working alone and with others.)
- To promote an understanding of safe practice, and develop a sense of responsibility towards their own and others' safety and well-being.

3.0 Curriculum

The Forest School leader will plan a range of activities that link to other areas of the curriculum such as Art, D.T, P.E and Science but activities will also be child led and follow natural paths of intrigue and the children's interests.

4.0 Equal opportunities and Inclusion

Activities are made available to all through adaptive teaching during the teacher planning phase. It is in our SEND policy that we will ensure that every child receives an equal opportunity within Forest School activities, regardless of race, gender, ability, or Special Education Needs.

5.0 Special Educational Needs SENDS

Any children who are identified as having 'special educational needs' are given the help that they require. Where children have a degree of physical or behavioural difficulties, they should be encouraged to participate in Forest activities with help from adults and activities will be adapted to suit their needs. Children with Special Educational Needs will take as full a part in the Forest school session as they are able or wanting to do. For further advice and guidance, class teachers should consult with the SENCO and/or the Forest School leader.

6.0 Resources

All resources are kept in a locked shed within the forest school site. Tools are kept in a locked box with an up to date inventory of all equipment within the box. The Forest Leader is responsible for checking the condition of all tools and equipment replacing and removing items as necessary.

7.0 Extra-curricular activity

The Forest area may be used at lunchtimes for children who are identified as needing a quieter area to play in away from the regular playground This would always be under the supervision of an adult. There would be no access to tools from the shed during these sessions.

8.0 Health and Safety

- Please see attached Forest School Health and Safety Policy.

9.0 Safeguarding

Use of any external personnel including volunteers will be in line with the schools policy on Safeguarding and DBS / staffing checks. Please also refer to the school's health and safety policy and risk assessment file.

10.0 Review

This Policy was reviewed in April 2024 and will be reviewed again in line with school development policy.