



Forest Schools at Naunton Park Primary School

NAUNTON PARK DRIVERS:
CHALLENGE curriculum and Values
(Kindness, Pride, Peace, Curiosity, Empathy, Trust)

- Naunton Park's Forest School curriculum is **child centred**, allowing children to make choices about their own interests in nature and the great outdoors. Sessions are structured in a way that build the children's **knowledge and skills** but also help to build their independence through choice. Each sessions they can try new things and use their imaginations and ideas to support their personal curiosity.
- The sessions aim to ignite a love of nature which children can take outside of school into their own lives. Through conversations, observations and hands on activities children develop a **love of learning**. The explorative aspect of the sessions means that children can develop their own learning without limitations.
- Forest school is **all inclusive** and accessible to everyone. Activities are adapted where needed, so that all children can have a go at everything on offer if they choose to. Children are encouraged to **work collaboratively** and to pass their knowledge onto others so they themselves can develop **leadership skills**.
- Through **learning outdoors** children start to take in and appreciate their environment. They discuss the weather, seasons, sounds, smells and feel of nature using their senses. Sessions support many skills from other subjects such as DT, Art, Science and P.E giving the children the chance to make and create a huge range of items or scenarios. Tools are available and children can use them in a controlled but experimental way whilst being supervised by the Forest School leader.
- Children are immersed in a whole host of **new experiences** which change through the academic years. New skills and activities are presented in each session but children can also develop their own ideas and try things they have not had the opportunity to before.
- Forest school focuses on **growing children's minds** by developing their curiosity about the world around them. By helping them achieve their own goals, their mental health and wellbeing is supported and it gives them a chance to succeed at things they care about.



The Big Ideas

- If we foster a love of nature and show children how amazing being outdoors can be for mental health and wellbeing, they can use nature outside of school to support themselves.
- Children have the opportunity to use their imaginations to create games and entertain themselves with natural resources.
- Children's confidence will increase as they engage in new activities and choose their own personal goals.

Sequencing of Content/Knowledge

- Sessions are planned to build up children's skills in tasks such as knot tying, whittling and cutting. However if children want to try the next level of the skill then the Forest leader will assess their readiness for it and they may be able to progress.
- Children build on their knowledge of plants, animals, landscapes and weather through questioning, observations and regular discussions.



Deepening Concepts

- Children have the opportunity to embed knowledge and skills from other subjects in the Forest School setting. They may apply skills such as balancing in P.E, to something they have created in Forest School like a wobbly log trail.
- They may have thoughts and ideas linked to science and through sessions have the chance to try things out and make links between ideas.



Retrieval Practise

- Sessions refer back to knowledge shared in previous sessions e.g. which season are we in now?
- Children are encouraged to discuss experiences outside of school that link to experiences they have previously had in Forest school.
- Children are asked to recall the Forest school rules and to share good practice of tool work through demonstrations e.g. before whittling can they all show the safe position and remember the technique.