

Sheringham Community Primary School and Nursery

Forest School Policy.

September 2018.



“ Be all that you can be....”

What is Forest School?

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve, develop self confidence and self esteem through hands on learning experiences in a natural outdoor environment.

Forest School is a long term process with frequent and regular sessions rather than a one off visit. Planning adaption, observations and reviewing are important elements of Forest School. Forest School curriculum will also be offered to groups from each class as an experience.

Forest School Aims to:-

- Promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.
- To use a range of learner centred processes to create a community for developing and learning.
- To allow every child to have a voice, especially those who find it difficult to communicate in a more conventional learning environment.
- To support personalised learning.
- Build children's confidence and self esteem as they are responsible for making their own decisions and are carefully supported to achieve.

Forest School Leader - Alison Sheridan

Forest school staff - Belinda Taylor

EYFS lead - Shona McDonald

Leadership lead - Jo Tweedale

The role of the Forest School Leader is:-

- To continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.
- To offer learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
- To offer a child-led approach to children's learning which is fun and unhurried.
- To facilitate and observe rather than lead and direct.

The Curriculum

Forest School provides an individual curriculum to meet the needs of each child. Each session offers the security of a familiar and consistent structure.

The aim at forest school is to focus on supporting the holistic development of the child.

The areas focused on are:-

- Building confidence and self esteem
- Making the correct choices
- Team building
- Taking risks
- Forming positive relationships
- Watching and listening
- Positive attitude to learning
- An understanding of the natural environment
- Turn taking
- Communication skills
- Fine and gross motor skills

Sessions

Each child taking part in forest school will be offered a one afternoon a week for half a term (6 weeks). The group size will be a maximum of 12 with 2 adults. All classes will access time in Forest School during their time at school.

Other children that will be offered a place may display:-

- Lack of self esteem
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of trust
- Poor social skills
- Poor attention span
- Immature behaviour

Referral procedure.

Class teachers are invited to put forward children who they feel will benefit from Forest School. As part of a rota system. These children will be forwarded to Alison.

Additional access.

For specific individuals who display signs and symptoms of needing additional support to build self-confidence and self-esteem etc will be via the referral form (see appendix). The referral is completed and goes to the SENCO. If a decision is made to invite the child to the group then a letter is sent home to inform parents/carers.

Assessment.

Children involved in Forest School who are additional to the class groups and have been referred via specific inclusion route are assessed at the start using the Boxall profile. After completing Forest School these children are reassessed using the Boxall. They

will then be reviewed termly as part of pupil progress analysis. Any other children experiencing Forest School will not need this assessment currently.

SENCO role.

The SENCO will line manage the forest school lead and take a lead responsibility for Forest School across the school.

Compiled by: Jo Tweedale

Date: 23/7/18

Review 1/9/19