




FOREST SCHOOL POLICY

Formally adopted by the
Governing Body of Sheringham Community Primary & Nursery School

On	25 th November 2021
Chair of Governors	
Head Teacher	
Last updated	November 2021
Review	November 2022

Be all that you can be...



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What Is Forest School?

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers all learners regular opportunities to achieve, develop *resilience*, 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 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 adapted 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 Tweeddale

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/model 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
- Developing solution focused skills

Sessions

Each child taking part in forest school will be offered one afternoon a week for 12 weeks. There will be a session 4 afternoons per week. The group size will be a maximum of 12 with 2 adults. Children that are offered a place may display:-

- Lack of self esteem
- Lack of confidence
- Lack of trust
- Poor social skills
- Poor attention span
- Immature behaviour
- Lack of resilience as an individual or a learner

During their time at Sheringham Community Primary and Nursery School we would aim for as many children as possible to experience a full period of Forest School but priority is given to those who may display the above. A data base within the Inclusion umbrella is kept, with initial referrals going to the SENCo, alongside our "view of the whole child" assessment profile for each attendee, prior to access and post access to measure soft data outcomes . We add some children to the groups each term who do not have specific referrals or any specific needs but would just love and benefit from the experience.

Referral Procedure.

For specific individuals who display signs and symptoms of needing additional support to build self-confidence and self-esteem etc will be via the inclusion referral form (see appendix). The referral is completed and emailed to the SENCO (Jo Tweeddale) . 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 have been referred via inclusion route are assessed at the start using the "view of the whole child" assessment profile. After completing Forest School these children are reassessed using the "view of the whole child" assessment profile. They will then be reviewed termly as part of pupil progress analysis.

SENCO Role.

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

Coronavirus can impact on the type of sessions offered and this will be monitored in line with any government led changes.

An example of changes are:

Children attending Forest School will all be from the same year group bubble.

Staff will ensure that every effort is made to keep 2m distance from the children as they are working across bubbles.

Equipment is cleaned thoroughly between each group's use.