

What is Forest Schools?

Forest Schools has developed from a highly successful Scandinavian education programme.

Forest School is a woodland-based classroom which gives children the opportunity to learn outdoors and explore the environment.

Forest Schools are run by qualified practitioners to enhance mainstream education, by focussing on the emotional, social and behavioural development of pupils. Sessions are tailored for pupils of all ages and abilities.

Pupils take part in child-centred and then child-led activities where they experience successfully taking risks, being responsible and taking care of each other.

The ethos of Forest Schools allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical hands on experiences. It allows practitioners to step back and observe the children in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating.

Where will my child be going?

Every Forest School is different, at Fleetwood's Charity we are fortunate to have a small woodland area we have developed into a Forest School on site.

It has many natural features and an established fire pit and shelter. The site is safe having been thoroughly risk assessed and managed by trained practitioners.

What does my child need?

- old clothes that it doesn't matter if they get dirty –arms and legs must be covered
- Waterproofs (we have some spares in school)
- Extra warm clothes/socks, hats and gloves for cold weather
- Wellingtons or boots



What will my child be doing?

The Forest School routine begins with preparing to go out by dressing for outdoors in suitable clothing for the weather and walking to the site often singing special songs. On arrival at the site quiet listening activities and safety games start the session before more focused and free play activities.

All sessions are designed around the needs of the group, ensuring that they are learner-led and are built on each week as skills develop. Sessions are often designed around a theme, themes are sometimes subtle such as evolving or exploring the site or more obvious such as Romans, butterflies, spies, fairies or nature investigators. Many areas of the National Curriculum and Foundation Stage Curriculum are covered.

Possible activities may include:-

- hunting for mini beasts
- Natural crafts– making elder necklaces, dream catchers, Collages from natural materials, weaving, making charcoal or string
- mud sculpture
- Shelter building
- Tying knots
- Tree climbing
- Using tools –peelers, knives ,saws
- Fire building and cooking

All Forest School Leaders are qualified through nationally recognised and accredited training, therefore ensuring Forest School is a high quality learning experience. (Forest Leader level 3 and Scandinavian OCN Denmark Forest Leader)

The earlier sessions concentrate on safety ,establishing boundaries and routines. As the children develop in confidence and familiarity with the environment the sessions focus on the development and consolidation of skills and understanding.

