

# Forest School

Brompton and Sawdon Community Primary School

## Curriculum Intent Statement for Forest School

Our Forest school provides learners with the opportunity to explore different surroundings outside of the classroom, promoting experiential learning in a stimulating, relaxing and enriching outdoor environment. With an ethos of “freedom with purpose,” pupils are able to truly connect with the outdoor environment and everything that it offers. Forest school promotes safe risk taking, independence and self-awareness for all learners as well as developing communication skills, practical skills, team building skills and resilience.

At the same time, the positive impact of outdoor learning on well-being and mental health are promoted, providing pupils with the tools and knowledge to look after themselves as well as the environment. We intend that our pupils are knowledgeable regarding conservation and recognise their own responsibility in protecting the local and global environment for future generations. We intend that our pupils are healthy, knowledgeable, confident and pro-active guardians of it.

### Implementation

**Nature** is one of our school Pillars, yet learning in Forest school goes far beyond this and encompasses all of our other pillars:

- Collaborate / contribute / support others / make a difference / learn from a wide range of people in the community (**our Family Pillar**)
- listen and be heard / use a range of equipment / learn about local and worldwide environments / learn about the impact of different communities and contexts (**our Respect Pillar**)
- Learn about how environmental issues affect different people, places and outlooks / learn about the role of the natural world in different events, religions and beliefs / learn how outdoor learning can support wellbeing and mindfulness (**our Rainbow Pillar**)
- Show resilience / be independent / ask questions and investigate / be creative and imaginative / present, challenge and be challenged (**our Ready to Fly Pillar**)

Forest school sessions provide increasingly diverse opportunities that can help learners build positive values and attitudes about themselves, about learning and the environment in which they live. Learners are given appropriately challenging and achievable tasks that build their confidence, skills and independence and are given time to thoroughly explore their thoughts, feelings and relationships. This time and reflective practice develop inter and intra-personal skills, which are well documented as being directly linked to learning skills. During each session it may be possible that different learners are engaged in different tasks, the Forest School Lead and supporting staff will coordinate these activities and allow the learners to learn at their own pace and direction of their choice engaging in the activities that they choose to. The planned activities are selected to reinforce the skills listed above in a safe, secure and supportive environment.

We have the highest expectations for our pupils with SEND. Rather than simplifying tasks, we intend that they receive the support, adaptations and resources needed to allow them to achieve learning objectives in line with their peers.

**This might include:**

- adult support, different groupings, adapted tasks to reflect different learning styles,
- Pre-teaching of specific vocabulary or concepts
- Over-teaching to reinforce
- Adult support in a small groups or 1:1
- 1:1 support where and when necessary.
- Word mats / visual cues that explain some of the key concepts or vocabulary
- Knowledge organisers to refer back to if they are unsure of a particular concept
- Further / additional or adapted resources around the classroom
- Adapted worksheets / books
- Carefully considered Peer buddies / pairings / groupings
- Adapted timings

**If they can't learn the way we teach, we teach the way they learn.**

### Impact

Forest school at Brompton and Sawdon Primary School develops the skills below **in order to support learning across and beyond the curriculum;**

- confidence/self esteem
- social and communicative skills
- motivation and concentration
- understanding of and connectedness to nature
- physical and practical skills
- increased resilience
- Problem solving skills

Combined with residential opportunities, learners will have a unique perspective on their environment, giving them the confidence to explore other settings with a greater understanding of the impact of nature and wildlife, encouraging enjoyment of the great outdoors and developing and understand how it should be protected.

