

Forest School Curriculum Overview



Forest School sessions provide students with the opportunity to explore and experience the natural world through practical activities in the outdoors, which will in return help promote confidence, independence and self esteem. By using resources available in woodland areas and promoting student's interests we aim to stimulate further imagination, creativity and enquiry skills. Forest School sessions are not limited to students of a certain age instead all will have the opportunity to attend a block of sessions before they leave the school. The students will visit the site regularly throughout the year and in all weather!

At Learning Opportunities Forest School we encourage students to:

- develop personal and social skills
- work through practical problems and challenges
- use tools to create, build or manage
- discover how they learn best
- pursue knowledge that interests them
- learn how to manage failures
- build confidence in decision making and evaluating risk
- develop practical skills
- understand the benefits of a balanced and healthy lifestyle
- explore connections between humans, wildlife and the earth
- regularly experience achievement and success
- reflect on learning and experiences
- develop their language and communication skills
- improve physical motor skills
- become more motivated
- improve their concentration skills

Across all key stages (student specific)

- Setting up the school 'camp' with expectations (this will be ongoing)
- Safe tool use (introduction to bow saws and billhooks)
- Whittling and tool making (mallet)
- Safe tool use (introduction to loppers, draw saws and penknife)
- Design fire pit and secure with pegs designed by students.
- Whittling and tool making (bows, spoons and skulking foxes)
- Rope work and knots (build a picture frame)
- Building wooden structure off the ground
- Rope bridge and swing
- Correct and safe fire lighting (using fire steel)
- Different ways to light fire
- Wild cooking (bread and popcorn)
- Den building/shelter building
- Exploring habitats
- Mini beasts and conservation
- Woodland crafts Willow weaving initials (classroom based)
- Exploring and collecting woodland materials to make natural art (collage)