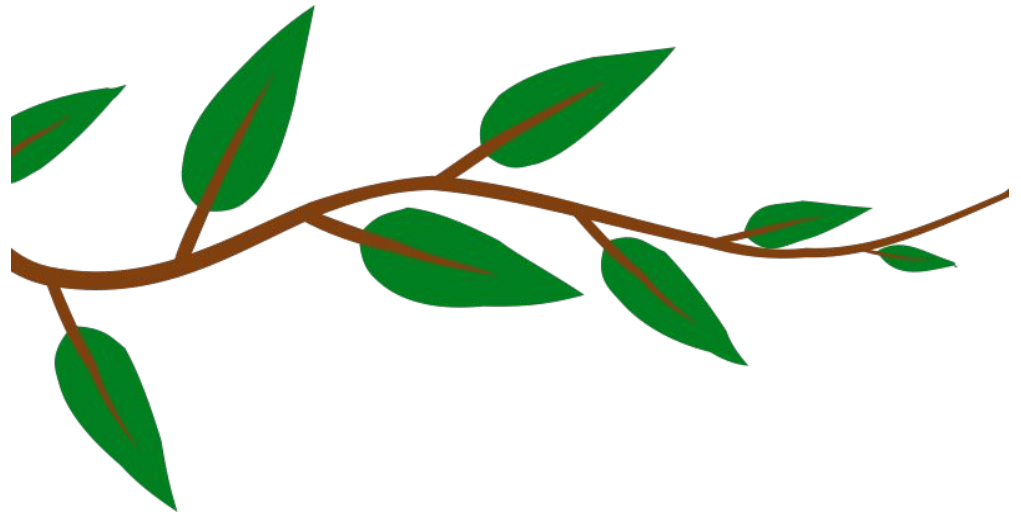




Forest Friday



Aston Rowant



Forest School



What is a forest school?

- Forest School is an inspirational process, that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.
- Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of outdoor and woodland education.

All children:

- Be equal, unique and valuable
- Are competent to explore & discover
- entitled to experience appropriate risk and challenge
- entitled to choose, and to initiate and drive their own learning and development
- entitled to experience regular success
- entitled to develop positive relationships with themselves and other people
- entitled to develop a strong, positive relationship with their natural world

Principles and criteria for good practice

- Principle 1: Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.
- Forest School takes place with the same group of learners, over an extended period of time, if practicable encompassing the seasons.
- A Forest School programme has a structure which clearly demonstrates progression of learning.
- The initial sessions of any programme establish physical and behavioural boundaries as well as making initial observations on which to base future programme development.

Principle 2:

- Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
- Whilst woodland is the ideal environment for Forest School, many other sites, some with only a few trees, are able to support good Forest School practice.
- The woodland is ideally suited to match the needs of the programme and the learners, providing them with the space and environment in which to explore and discover.
- Forest School aims to foster a relationship with nature through regular personal experiences in order to develop long-term, environmentally sustainable attitudes and practices in staff, learners and the wider community.
- Forest School uses natural resources for inspiration, to enable ideas and to encourage intrinsic motivation

Principle 3

- Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners
- Teachers link experiences at Forest School to home, work and /or school education
- Forest School programmes aim to develop, where appropriate, the physical, social, cognitive, linguistic, emotional, social and spiritual aspects of the learner.

Principle 4:

- Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
- Forest School opportunities are designed to build on an individual's innate motivation, positive attitudes and/or interests.
- Forest School uses tools and fires only where deemed appropriate to the learners, and dependent on completion of a baseline risk assessment.
- Any Forest School experience follows a Risk-Benefit process managed jointly by the teacher and learner that is tailored to the developmental stage of the learner

Fires



Seasonal walks



Footpaths out of school



Bug Hunts



Birds



Exploring



Art work



2D art



3D art



Muddy faces



Muddy hands



Nature weaving



Play



Science/Maths



Maths



Cooking





Websites

- CLOtC
- FSA
- Twitter
- The Woodland Trust
- The Forestry Commission
- RHS Outdoor Learning
- Outdoor Learning Lab