

Curriculum: Forest School



**'Be positive, be strong and be resourceful...
...the world really is what YOU make of it.'**

Bear Grylls

Together we succeed

Why is Forest School important?

Forest School at Werrington aims to encourage and inspire children through positive outdoor experiences. At Werrington Primary, children will have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, how to handle risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. The children use full-sized tools, play, learn boundaries of behaviour; both physical and social, establish and grow in confidence, self-esteem and become self-motivated. Promoting environmental awareness and encouraging sustainability are also key components of Forest School sessions. The children are taught about respect and responsibility for the world around them. Children and adults are encouraged to respect their environment and to be aware of conservation issues of the wild area around them. Forest School sessions help our young people to become responsible global citizens who care for the world we live in.

What are the aims of our Forest School curriculum?

Forest School sessions at Werrington Primary consider the holistic development of its participants. The key aims are to develop children's:

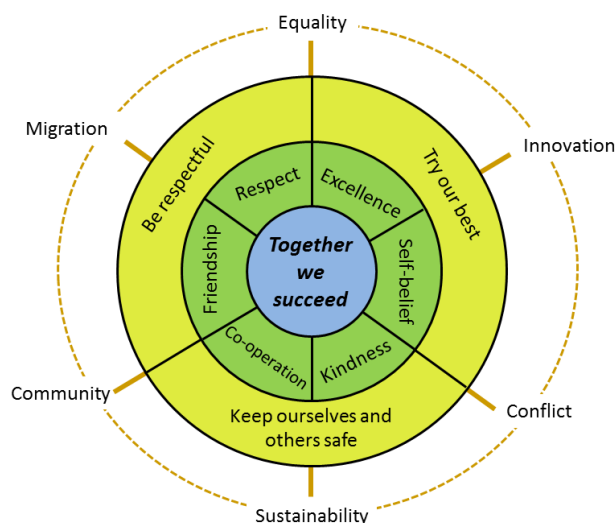
- ✚ Self-Awareness
- ✚ Self-Regulation
- ✚ Intrinsic motivation
- ✚ Empathy
- ✚ Social communication skills
- ✚ Independence
- ✚ Positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence

In addition to these aims, Forest School will be used as a platform for participants to:

- ✚ Access and understand the outside.
- ✚ Carry out a variety of activities using natural and man-made materials, tool work and fire.
- ✚ Develop their ability to assess and manage risk on their own and in conjunction with others.
- ✚ Develop and refine positive social interaction skills.
- ✚ To find, develop and nurture positive talents that they discover during sessions.

At Werrington Primary our bespoke curriculum has 6 golden strands which encompass the core values of our school. These strands are complemented by the Forest School curriculum from Year 1 to Year 6. Examples of this can be found in the table below.

Equality	All participants are equal in Forest School sessions.
Innovation	Children are encouraged to design and construct their own dens/shelters.
Conflict	Children learn about climate issues and consider their impact on the environment.
Sustainability	Children learn about the sustainability of trees.
Community	Community is never more present than when you are sat around the fire.
Migration	Children learn about the migration of birds during bird watching sessions.



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What do we learn about in Forest School at Werrington Primary School?



Know how to spot disease in trees



Bird Watching

Super Shelters

Year 6

Environmental Issues

Tree Health



Participate in RSPB Birdwatch



Construct more sophisticated shelters for survival



Understand that human activities impact the natural world



Understand the 4 tool families & about safe storage and use

Sustainable growth of trees



Choose a safe site and fire layout

Year 5

Survival Skills

More Complex Tools

Tree Growing



Learn how charcoal is made and use it for cave painting



Confidently use flint and steel to light tinder

Risks



Foraging

Outdoor Art

Fire!

Year 4

Why and how to assess risks



Forage with support to learn about foods that grow in our school grounds



Know how to tie basic knots

Learn aspects of fire safety



Know the 3 ingredients for fire

Care for our natural world



Shelter building

Build a free-standing shelter using natural materials

Year 3

Knots

Use Simple Tools

Fire!

Discover Plants



Observe weather and other seasonal changes



Safe and supported use of tools for practical tasks



Learn that plants come from seeds and bulbs



Tree identification including deciduous and evergreen



Trees

Seasons

Minibeasts

Games

Year 2

Food chains

Discover simple food chains that exist in our locale

Explore the insect world during minibeast hunts



Hide and seek



Squirrels



Year 1

EYFS Learning Goals

Early Years

Forest School sessions start in Year 1 but in the EYFS children learn about minibeasts and begin to immerse themselves in the outdoors. They learn to appreciate nature through sensory exploration and play.



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An example of progression: Learning about Fire

Please note that all lessons on fire are led by a Level 3 Qualified Forest School practitioner who ensures that all sessions are appropriately risk-assessed and the highest levels of safety are maintained.



Year 6

At this stage, children will learn more about food hygiene and will begin to cook a range of food items over a fire. Children should be able to risk assess, site and maintain a fire for around 30 minutes. They would be able to safely extinguish using water and will also learn how to minimise the impact of their fire on the environment.

Year 5

Children can choose an appropriate fire site, consider purpose and safety and maintain their fire. They will learn a larger variety of fire layout including raised platforms and will begin to cook simple food items over a fire.

Year 4

Children should be able to use a firesteel to produce sufficient sparks to light tinder. They then learn how to select appropriate fuel to add to the fire to keep the fire burning for at least 15 minutes. Children will learn how to independently identify and manage risks appropriate to the activity and will learn about other safe methods for extinguishing a fire.

Year 3

Children continue to develop their skill with a firesteel and will begin to learn about the different grades of wood that can be used as fuel. They will begin to experiment with different styles of fire layout as well as source appropriate fuel for fires. Extinguishing fire using water is also a focus here as children learn how charcoal is made and then use it in their caveman artwork.

Year 2

We review and revisit the purposes of outdoor fires. Children recall the three elements (heat, fuel and oxygen) that make up the fire triangle. Children begin to learn how to use a firesteel to create sparks and consider safe sites for fires.

Year 1

Participation in a group campfire. Children learn about the purposes of outdoor fire lighting and the three ingredients needed for fire. They are guided to understand how to behave safely around a fire as well as how to safely toast marshmallows.

EYFS

Forest School sessions do not start in the EYFS. Children will learn about fire through stories and imaginative play as part of their early learning goals of development.