



Forest School

Curriculum Intent Statement

Forest School is an inspirational process that offers learners opportunities to achieve and develop their confidence, self-esteem and resilience through hands on learning experiences in a natural environment. It is our intention that all learners develop a real passion for the great outdoors and celebrate their local, natural environment. Play, collaboration and creativity are an integral part of the Forest School philosophy that expand children's life skills and experiences and establish the safe management of risks.

At Maidensbridge, Forest School provides a nurturing space that supports our children's wellbeing by providing and implementing positive, outdoor, child centred experiences in a natural setting. The ethos of Forest School allows learners the time and space to develop their skills interests and understanding.

Our Forest School provision is within a secure woodland and fielded area within the school grounds. The sessions are planned and delivered by a qualified Level Three Forest School Leader. Each Forest School programme is tailored to meet the needs of individuals within that group and continuously develops along with their confidence, skills and understanding.

Children are active, take ownership of learning, and develop their self-esteem through a variety of independent tasks. Children develop knowledge of sustainability and respect for their learning environment and the outdoors as a whole. Children develop their team-work skills and increase their capability to work together to solve problems in a variety of ways, considering one another's ideas. Positive relationships are built through these sessions and children are both enabled and empowered to achieve holistic potential.

All areas of the curriculum can be taught through Forest School and some will be taught through a range of adventurous activities such as cooking over an open fire, shelter building and Art and sculpture work. Forest School facilitates the development of practical skills such as knot tying, fire lighting and the safe, responsible use of tools.

Forest School originated in Scandinavia education system in the 1950's as a way of learning about and experiencing the natural world, by the 1980's they had become an integral part of the Danish Early Years program. Forest Schools are successful for children of all aged who visit the same woodland on a regular basis in all weathers.

Childhood and play are recognised as vital for children's wellbeing. Through play, they learn about the natural environment, how to manage risks and most importantly to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others.

The long term philosophy of Forest School facilitates the revisiting and development of core knowledge, skills and understanding to deepen conceptual awareness and independent application.