

WEETON PRIMARY SCHOOL



Forest School

Our Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all involved, fostering independent, resilient and creative learners. Children's self-esteem and confidence is developed by achieving small manageable tasks and taking risks in a natural wooded environment. Children learn about the flora and fauna of the environment and how to care for it. Children play and learn through direct experiences with nature. Practitioners teach the children to use natural resources as well as safely using tools to make a range of objects. Many other skills are taught such as the tying of knots, den erecting, shelter building as well as fire lighting and campfire cooking. Much of the learning is child-led. Practitioners will engage with and observe the children to find out their interests. They will facilitate activities and tasks for them to develop their schemas.

We leave the environment natural and remove all signs of man-made objects. Sessions begin with health and safety talks and games so that children learn to risk assess and keep themselves safe in the environment. Children will take part in frequent, regular sessions developing team-working, social skills and self-esteem. They can return to activities at the next session.

The Forest School is run by a qualified Forest School Practitioner who continually maintains and develops her practice.

Purpose and Aims

- To provide children with experiences that develop an appreciation, awareness and knowledge of the natural environment.
- To learn to respect and care for their own local environment.
- To follow rules and set standards of behaviour, to work cooperatively in groups and have respect for each other.
- To develop children's self-esteem and confidence by completing tasks and creating objects in a non-competitive environment.

Developmental Benefits

- Using tools appropriately
- Teamworking and social skills
- Developing self-confidence, independence and self-esteem
- Importance of boundaries
- Being out in the fresh air
- Managing risks
- Positive Outdoor experiences

WEETON PRIMARY SCHOOL

- New ID knowledge about flora and fauna
- Positive relationships with nature
- Fine and gross motor skills
- Learning about natural materials
- Creativity
- Imagination
- Knot Tying
- Safety Awareness

Environmental Considerations

One of the principles of Forest School is to promote respect for the environment and to encourage sustainability. The children learn how to take responsibility and care for the world around them. Through carefully planned lessons, children learn to encourage natural habitats and look after those already there. Children learn to leave an area as they found it and clear away evidence of having been there. If appropriate, reclaimed, recycled and sustainable resources will be used to maintain and develop our forest school site. The ecological impact of all activities will be assessed and all necessary measures will be taken to reduce the impact on the site.