

Fleetdown Primary School: Forest School and Outdoor Learning Policy

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Forest School handbook, Activity Risk Assessment, Forest School Area Risk Assessment and Health and Safety Policy, Forest School Lesson Outline.

Policy statement and Curricular aims Forest School at Fleetdown supports our personalised curriculum whilst preparing children for life long learners in readiness for the next step in their education. Forest School is intended to offer learners the space and time to develop skills, interest and understanding through practical, hands on experiences where practitioners observe in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating. Forest School is a specialised learning approach that sits within and compliments the wider context of education. As described by the Forest School Association, The six Forest School Principles can be found in the Forest School Handbook.

Outdoor learning contributes to successful learners at Fleetdown Primary Academy. It enables young people to develop independence, knowledge and skills in ways that enrich value to their everyday learning experiences. This environment supports children's holistic development alongside our Fleetdown school values of Respect, Responsibility and Equality. Our key words are: **Outdoor Adventure, Personalised, Challenge, Resilience, Independence.**

Intent: Outdoor learning has a positive impact upon children's behaviour including; Enhanced personal and social communication skills, Increased physical health, Enhanced mental and spiritual health, Enhanced spiritual, sensory, and aesthetic awareness, The ability to assert personal control and increased sensitivity to one's own well-being.

Source: Health, Well-Being and Open Space, Literature Review by Nina Morris, OPENspace Research Centre, (2003).

Implementation: At Fleetdown we support children in taking risks within a safe and secure environment to enhance their curriculum. (Please see separate Forest School handbook and Health and Safety policy).

Pupils will be taught to manage risks. Outdoor learning opportunities will be considered through staff INSET, training, confidence and readily available staff. (Where EYFS sessions are run without the Forest School Practitioner they are called Forest Fun and staff are supported with ideas and safety routines to run these sessions).

Impact:

We measure impact of Forest School by conducting incremental surveys, observations and photos. Assessment of the children's outdoor learning will be valued equally and contribute to their ongoing attainment through O Track. Additionally, through regular INSET, staff training and confidence we will monitor and assess the impact of outdoor learning through feedback, evaluation and observation.

Environmental Policy

An important aspect of Forest School is for all involved to have an understanding of their impact on the environment. It is important to convey and encourage an awareness of and consideration for the fragility of the woodland system and the impact our use of the area has.

This policy is updated regularly.
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