
Forest School Policy

Yew Tree Primary School



Date of Policy:	November 2024
Responsibility:	Jessica Horsley (Forest School Lead)
Review Date:	November 2027
Consultation:	This policy was reviewed with staff and governors at Yew Tree Primary School.

ETHOS STATEMENT

It is the aim of the Governing Body of Yew Tree Primary School to support the implementation of policies and procedures which develop the skills our children need to achieve our vision of:

“Learning without limits”

Introduction

Forest School is a unique method of Outdoor Education that allows children to develop confidence, independence, self-esteem and awareness and knowledge of the natural environment. At Yew Tree, we offer a broad, balanced & inclusive curriculum which acts as a starting point to stimulate awe, wonder & curiosity and which encompasses ‘Learning Without Limits’ so that children are empowered and able to achieve their full potential.

Aims and objectives

- to provide high quality outdoor learning to engage, inspire and challenge our children.
- to provide memorable learning experiences that support and enhance other areas of the school curriculum through high quality outdoor experiences and provision.
- to provide an engagement with nature and the environment for health, wellbeing and developing character, resilience and positive risk taking.
- to foster a connection that leads to respect and care for the natural world, an appreciation of biodiversity and sustainability.
- to develop resilience and be prepared to take risks in order to persevere with learning even when it is tough.
- To develop positive relationships and nurturing behaviours linked to our core values of ‘Responsibility’, ‘Respect’, ‘Courage’, ‘Ambition’, and ‘Pride’.

Curriculum

At Yew Tree Primary School, Forest School is part of the layered curriculum that is offered to the EYFS (Nursery and Reception) and promotes a holistic, cross-curricular approach that supports in-depth learning across many areas of learning. Forest School also offers the flexibility for children’s learning to be driven by their interests, allowing them to develop their own play and exploration and in turn developing the characteristics of effective learning.

Forest School forms part of the whole school approach and curriculum model in partnership with the EYFS Educational Programmes in order to identify outdoor learning opportunities. In doing so, it enriches and supports coverage of the necessary skills and knowledge to meet EYFS curriculum expectations.

Teaching and Learning

To ensure good quality of teaching and learning in Forest School, we use a knowledge and skills overview that supports the EYFS Educational Programmes and ensures a clear progression of knowledge and skills from Nursery through to Reception.

Equality and Inclusion

Forest School at Yew Tree Primary School aims to provide a secure learning environment in which all contributions are valued and all children can flourish and achieve their full potential, regardless of their background, ability or needs.

Health and Safety

The Forest School's curriculum supports children to develop responsibility for themselves and others. It will encourage early risk management strategies that will ensure that young children start to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and on others. Children must be reminded of the risks and possible hazards when in the outdoor areas. A site risk assessment has been carried out for the sessions and a daily site check must be carried out before each Forest School session. A qualified first aider must attend the session

Monitoring and review

The Forest School Lead is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy and should feedback as necessary to the senior leadership team and curriculum leads.