



ROSSMERE FOREST SCHOOL

According to the Forest School Association, there are six main values consistent with the ethos of Forest School. These are as follows:

- Forest School is a long-term process of regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment

Frequent sessions on a regular basis help young people to become more confident and comfortable in the woodland surroundings and Forest School activities

- Forest school takes place in a woodland or outdoor setting to enable children to understand, appreciate and care for the natural environment

The woodland provides space and the natural environment to explore and discover.

Rossmere is in a fortunate position of having our forest man made. Children will see the site develop and take part in planting and caring for its contents. In this way the children will take ownership for their natural environment and develop appreciation and respect for it, which will hopefully extend to outside of school and stay with them throughout their lives.

- Forest school promotes the holistic development of all participants, establishing confident, independent, resilient and creative learners. Holistic learning caters for the participant's physical, mental academic, emotional and social needs, which are all stimulated through regular sessions in the woodland environment. Learning can be linked wherever possible to National Curriculum planning in the classroom, practical tasks during Forest School sessions, which can then be built upon back in the regular classroom setting.
- Forest School provides a safe environment in which learners have opportunity to take support risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves

Learning to take appropriate risks in a forest environment can encourage children to take responsibility for themselves and others and begin to take appropriate risks whilst in the classroom environment and indeed as adults in later life.

Peter Cornall from ROSPA states “We need to ask ourselves whether it is better for a child to break a wrist falling out of a tree, or to get a repetitive strain wrist injury at a young age from using a computer or video games console. Parents and children must not be frightened about venturing outside.” “When children spend time in the great outdoors, getting muddy, getting wet, getting stung by nettles, they learn important lessons – what hurts, what is slippery, what you can trip over or fall from.”

- **Forest School promotes learner-centered and child-initiated learning, Children are given lots of time to explore the forest so that staff can observe what they are interested in and plan sessions to incorporate these topics. Motivation to learn and enjoyment of sessions is stimulated as child initiated learning takes place. Staff ensure participants’ success by planning simple achievable tasks that can be differentiated to cater for whole class needs.**
- **Forest school is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintained and developed their professional practice.**

Forest School is led by qualified staff who hold accredited Level 3 Forest School and paediatric first aid qualifications and there is always a high ratio of staff/ adults to learners. Good practice is enhanced through regular updating and sharing of skills with other practitioners. Our Forest School is backed by relevant working documents, which contain the necessary policies and procedures.

