



Forest School Ethos Policy

A unique child	Positive Relationships	Enabling Environments	Learning and Development
1.1 Child development 1.2 Inclusive practice 1.3 Keeping safe 1.4 Health and well-being	2.2 Parents as partners 2.3 Supporting learning	3.1 Observation, assessment and planning 3.2 Supporting every child 3.3 The learning environment	4.1 Play and exploration 4.2 Active learning 4.3 Creativity and critical thinking 4.4 Areas of learning and development

Statement

The Village Pre-school E17 has a Forest School approach to support outdoor learning.

Forest School approach has many benefits and encourages and supports development across all areas of the EYFS.

Method

Forest Schools first started in Scandinavia in the 1950's and it bases its philosophy that a child's interaction with natural world and nature is a key factor to their development.

Forest Schools first started in the United Kingdom in 1993 after students and tutors from a college in Somerset visited Denmark.

The visit showed them how the emphasis was placed on child-led outdoor learning.

The Forest School Association (FSA) defines forest school as an inspirational process that gives learners consistent opportunities to develop and achieve self-esteem and confidence through hands-on experiences in a natural environment.

Principles of Forest School

There are six guiding principles of a Forest School Ethos

- 1, Is a long term process of regular sessions, rather than one-off or infrequent visits, the cycle of planning, observation, adaption and review links each session
- 2, Takes place in a woodland or natural environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world
- 3, Uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for being, development and learning
- 4, Aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent learners
- 5, Offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves
- 6, Is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice

Benefits

The benefits of the Forest School experience are vast. It can help children develop in many ways including

- Self-awareness
- Motivation
- Empathy
- Social skills
- Communication skills

Independence

Self-esteem and Confidence

Physical skills including the development of both fine and gross motor skills

Knowledge and Understanding of the world around them

Therefore, Forest School fully supports the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) and can be linked to other themes and activities going on at pre-school.

All Forest School activities are fully risk assessed.

Our Forest School Trained staff members are Beth Aggus and Indra Gray