

FOREST SCHOOL ETHOS

‘An inspirational process that offers children, young people and adults regular opportunities to achieve, develop confidence and self esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a local woodland environment.’

Forest Education Initiative 2005



There are six guiding principles of Forest School. These guidelines are listed in brief below.

- Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.
- Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.
- Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners.

- Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.
- Forest School is run by trained Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.
- Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning.

A thorough explanation of these can be found at [http://](http://www.forestschoolassociation.org/full-principles-and-criteria-for-good-practice/)

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Forest School is different from ‘Outdoor Education’ as most people know it. Where Outdoor Education is task-led, Forest School is lead by the learners’ interests within a loosely-structured framework of intended outcomes that builds on the interests and curiosity of the learners.