

St. Lukes CE (VC) Primary School 'Forest School' Statement of Intent.'

Intent
Forest School is an inspirational process that will allow learners to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees to promote feelings of mental and emotional wellbeing. It provides an opportunity for all children to experience the outdoors through play, creative arts, bushcraft skills, tool use, risk taking and learning about the environment, nature and its importance to us all. Instilling an awareness of everyone's need to protect it.
Implementation
Every class, for one half term per year, will get a Forest School programme delivered by specially trained Forest School staff. The programme will include child led activities along with skills based learning such as den building, knot tying, tree, plant and creature identification activities, fire building and cooking, natural arts and tool use. Each session of Forest School will take place in the school nature area which has been created to be as natural a space as possible with trees, bushes, plants and fungi growing unhindered to attract as much wildlife as possible. Sessions may also take place in the local country park which has a rich natural environment.
Impact
The impact of the 'Forest School' programme has been obvious. All of our learners enjoy Forest School and for many it is an obvious change in demeanour and attitude to learning. Children are energised and increase in confidence and self-esteem, showing this by taking part and initiating activities and solving problems through team working and cooperation. Teachers have noted that the children seem calmer after sessions with improved focus and attitude. Knowledge of environmental issues have increased with children approaching school council members to tackle plastic use and recycling. Pupil interviews show that Forest school sessions are greatly valued by the children and they look forward to them enormously.

