



Forest School Position Statement *October 2022*

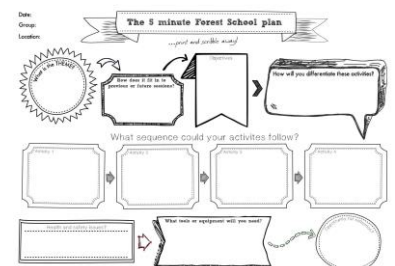
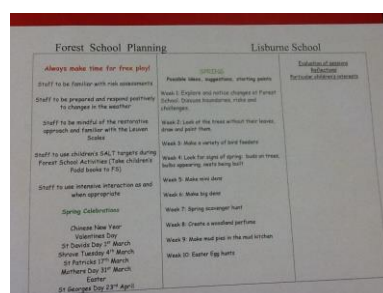
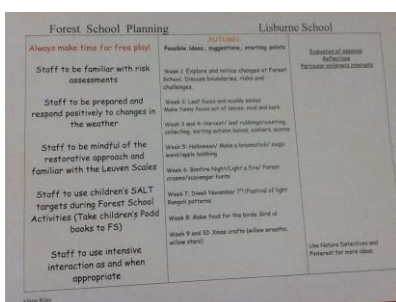
The Forest School curriculum intent is to give all children the opportunity to play, explore and learn together in their natural environment whilst exploring PSHE through everything we do.



Curriculum

Forest School is child led and play based. The children are encouraged to develop an appreciation of and respect for the natural world within their immediate environment. The children are encouraged to develop their personal and social skills through a range of hands on activities. Activities for Forest School are diverse and numerous and, in turn, we are trying to create independent learners who are inspired and confident to try out their own ideas. Children are able to learn how to use a range a tools safely with the Forest School lead. We regularly have fires with all classes and look at fire safety and hygiene in these sessions. Forest School can be linked to any area of the curriculum and staff are encouraged to link to any class topics. Staff are reminded to use children’s SALT targets during all Forest School activities.

Planning



On all planning it is highlighted that as Forest School is very much child led, all ideas are only suggestions and possible starting points. Staff are encouraged to evaluate all sessions and reflect on the learning and remember to make a note of any child's particular interests and build this in to future sessions. Using Forest School to teach cross-circularly is highly encouraged as this embeds previous learning.

Subject Knowledge

At the main site and Hollywood, Forest School is now only delivered by the Forest School lead who is Level 3 trained with additional outdoor First Aid qualification. Additionally, we have two members of staff at the main site who are Level 2 trained. Laura Hodgson is currently undertaking her Level 3 Forest School training- she will be qualified in July 2023 ready for moving to the new build. At the Overdale site, Forest School is lead by a HLTA who is looking at undertaking the Level 2 qualification in the near future..

Assessment and Target Setting

In order to have some form of 'Assessment' for Forest School, we have trialled using the Leuven scale to monitor children's wellbeing and engagement for each session. By the end of the year we did have numeric 'data' for some classes, however this wasn't very useful. Instead, we are still using the Leuven Scale during sessions to monitor children's engagement and enjoyment but instead keeping a record of activities they engaged with and basing future planning on this.

The Leuven Scale for Well-being level		Evidence
1	Extremely low	
2	Low	
3	Moderate	
4	High	
5	Extremely high	

The Leuven Scale for Involvement level		Evidence
1	Extremely low	
2	Low	
3	Moderate	
4	High	
5	Extremely high	

Monitoring

The Forest School lead attends team meetings throughout the year in order to have a better understanding of the children across school. Regular site maintenance is undertaken to ensure the area is usable and accessible for all children. It is important to build/install new equipment and areas to keep the sessions fresh and interesting. Over the next academic year, RC is planning to attend local network meetings (which did not run last year) to share ideas and practice to keep sessions and activities engaging and relevant.

Resources

All classes have their own store for their waterproofs/wellies. We have a good selection of resources to support our Forest School sessions, including tools, books, soft toys, plastic

mini beasts, den building equipment and fire lighting resources. Throughout the last year, we have added to our bank of resources (eg: slack line to develop balance and gross motor skills, a pewter casting set to make metal models. Additionally, we have Bear the Forest School dog who attends all sessions at the main site to improve well-being and teach children how to treat animals.

Key issues for improvement

- To continue to develop all three forest school sites.
- To assist LH in completion of level 3 training.
- To begin to plan the site at the new build to ensure a smooth transition in 2023

Richard Crompton

Forest School lead
October 2022