



Amberley Primary School
Amberley Forest School
Teaching and Learning Profile



Intent

At Amberley Forest School we want to give our children the best possible opportunities and experiences.

The ethos of Forest School is based on a respect for children and their capacity to initiate, investigate and maintain curiosity in the world around them. It believes in a child's right to play; the right to access the outdoors; the right to experience risk in a controlled and safe way in the natural world along with the right to develop their emotional intelligence through social interaction, building a resilience to enable creative engagement with their peers and their potential.

Forest School is nature-based, where our Forest School Leaders- Miss Lewis, Mrs Hurst and Mrs Hogg nurture learner-led exploration and discovery, nurturing meaningful experiences for positive lifelong impacts. Through creating learner inspired experiences based on exploration and discovery, we recognise opportunities to mentor holistic growth. Wellbeing is the foundation of our practice and Forest Schools help to develop social, emotional and physical needs as well as confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands on experiences in our tailored natural setting.

Linking progression and new skills as the children visit the forest school site. The progression allows for the children to build on previous learning and develop new skills. This is underpinned with the Forest School leaders repeating the same safety rules, identifying boundaries, emphasising the importance of safety and making links to previous and current classroom learning, new skills and their everyday lives.

Forest school expands the children's learning of the natural world and how they as individuals can have an influence and impact on the world today eg going green, recycling, protecting nature.

The Amberley Forest School space is central in supporting this approach to learning- watching the seasons change, the curiosity over growing plants and exploring animal behaviours. Our space offers our pupils an abundance of smells, textures, sounds, tastes and a range of visual stimuli to contribute to learning experience of Amberley Forest School.

Our Forest School encourages children to:

- Develop personal and social skills
- Work through practical problems and challenges
- Use tools to create, build or manage
- Discover how they learn best
- Pursue knowledge that interests them
- Learn how to manage failure
- Build confidence in decision making
- Evaluate and assess risk
- Understand the benefits of a balanced and healthy lifestyle
- Explore connections between humans, wildlife and earth.
- Regularly experience achievement and success
- Reflect on learning and experiences
- Develop their language and communication skills
- Improve physical motor skills

Implementation

The Forest School six week rotation time-table offers an opportunity for each child from Nursery to Year six to experience Forest School within all seasons- giving a wealth of opportunities for learning and wonder. The planned rotation of classes across Thursday and Friday afternoons will use the PSHE and outdoor PE slot for the class on that particular week, EYFS will use the Forest School across a Tuesday morning and afternoon as their outdoor education slot. The time-table is planned to ensure the class teacher attends the session alongside their class- allowing the class teacher to see their children outside the classroom and offers opportunities for building crucial relationships between staff and pupils as well as this it offers a reference

point for the class teacher to refer and reflect upon when faced with classroom based struggles, friendship concerns and low resilience.

Activities at Amberley Forest School are diverse and link to multi-cultured, traditional and current celebrations for example Earth day, Diwali, St Valentines day, the King's birthday and Mental Health Week. Within planning for Amberley Forest School sessions- we use these celebrations and weekly themes as an 'umbrella' theme where we plan the session with activities linked to this however, the children are welcome to enjoy any particular activities they are drawn to. Within this planning process, both the class teacher and the Forest School lead observe the pupils and assess what they are naturally attracted to, we build upon this in the following sessions by offering equipment and resources to extend their learning. We use the weather to plan the session and the equipment needed for the pupils to be safe and comfortable and well as the individual needs of the class. We try to create independent learners who are resilient, inspired and confident to try their own ideas, explore their own interests and to attempt new ideas.

Some activities might include:

- Shelter building
- Fire lighting and cooking on the fire pit
- Tool use
- Studying and identifying wildlife
- Playing team and group games
- Sensory activities
- Knot work
- Art and sculpture
- Woodland and traditional craft
- Woodland management
- Developing stories, drama and creating imaginary characters.
- Mud play
- Imaginary potion making
- Planting and sustaining a vegetable patch
- Planting and sustaining plants and trees

The Forest School provides a space for individual and small group intervention sessions with children who have needs which require focused support and guidance within peaceful and calming space. These sessions will be ran by Mrs Hurst (SEMH lead) as and when the child requires.

Impact

Amberley Forest School sessions aim to have a life-long affect on our pupils and to make learning more relevant to their lives in the community and wider world. We encourage our children to be responsible for and respect the local community and environment of Killingworth- giving them a sense of belonging and ownership. Within every session we ask adults and pupils to join in within a reflection task- this can be shared with the group or not- depending on the individual needs of the child. This reflection task acts as a review of the session and informs the plan for the following session.

We measure the impact of our Forest School sessions through the planned review and reflection and using the following methods:

- Images and videos of the children's practical learning – uploaded to SeeSaw.
- Interviewing the pupils every term about their Forest School experience.
- Using the views of the class teacher within an audit to show the development of their pupils.