The Federation of St Giles and St John

Forest School Policy

Aims

- To offer a weekly forest school session for all children from Reception up to year 6.
- To encourage a love of the outdoors.
- To develop children's knowledge and understanding of the natural world.
- To learn to use tools and equipment.
- To learn new skills.
- To link learning in the forest to learning in the classroom.
- To improve levels of involvement throughout the school.
- To boost children's self confidence.
- To improve writing throughout the school.
- To help children to work effectively as part of a team.
- Forest School sessions are accessible to all children and adults regardless of race, gender or disability.

To achieve these aims

- All children have a forest school session each week. Children have a short focussed practical task to achieve during each session which links to their learning in the classroom. They learn new skills such as knotting and building fires. They also learn how to use tools safely.
- Children have a child initiated time each week to follow their own interests, explore and apply the skills they have learned.
- Children review their learning after each session.
- Children are monitored to assess their involvement levels over time.
- The forest is used as a setting for writing to encourage reluctant writers.
- Children are set tasks which are carefully planned to encourage interaction and teamwork.

Resources

- String and scissors
- 4 trowels
- 1 mallet
- 1 pair of loppers
- 1 pair of secateurs
- 15 potato peelers
- 1 hand drill.
- 7 hand puppets for role play.
- Paper
- Non fiction books about wild flowers

- Tree identification guide.
- Minibeast identification guide.
- Hand lenses.
- Tarpaulin.
- First aid kit
- Flask
- Treasure box.
- Fire tin.

Assessment

- Children are monitored informally throughout each session by the Forest School leader and other adults in the setting.
- The Forest School leader carries out an assessment at the end of each session and uses the information to plan further sessions to develop the children's understanding as necessary.
- A small number of children in each class are monitored weekly to track their progress. The information is shared with the Forest School leader, the head teacher and class teacher and strategies to hep these children make further progress are discussed.

Success criteria:

- All children up to Year 6 have a weekly forest school session.
- Children develop a love of the outdoors.
- Children develop knowledge and understanding of the natural world.
- Children learn to use tools and equipment safely.
- Children learn new skills.
- Learning in forest school is linked to learning in the classroom.
- Levels of involvement are higher throughout the school.
- Children have high levels of self confidence.
- Standards in writing are improving throughout the school.
- Children work well as part of a team.
- Forest School sessions are accessible to all children and adults regardless of race, gender or disability.

Policy reviewed by:	Rachel Smith-February 2013. Reviewed May 2016 Reviewed January 2019 Reviewed February 2024
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