



## **Newbold School Forest School Curriculum**

### **Intent**

Forest school is an inspirational, learner led, outdoor, educational experience. It endeavours to inspire in its participants (through a connection to nature); creativity, cooperation, confidence, self-esteem, creative thinking and an aptitude for working and creating with the environment.

Forest School builds self-esteem and confidence in children by allowing them to practise being resilient, determined and independent learners. Forest School promotes children's personal, social and emotional development and it encourages creativity and collaboration. The activities offered at Forest School help its participants to develop and build ideas of risk management and risk benefit. It also offers children a variety of experiences and helps them to gain a respect for the natural environment and the wildlife in it. The respect the children build at Newbold for their environment will hopefully stay with them their whole lifetime.

Forest School fits comfortably within the Newbold School curriculum. We aim to provide a safe, caring and inspiring environment, which shows love for God through respect for ourselves, our peers, our environment, our teachers and staff and others in our community.

### **OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

To foster independence and critical thinking, whilst instilling love for God and respect for all life He has created.

### **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

To inspire excellence, cultivate faith and produce responsible world citizens.

Forest School fits with our mission statement and vision statement of respecting all life created and producing responsible world citizens. By the end of a pupil's time at Newbold School we wish Forest School to have increased each child's life skills, improved their mental health and offered each child new experiences and opportunities for learning. These opportunities will allow children to transfer the skills and knowledge from the Forest School activities into the classroom and vice versa. In addition, Forest School will be provided in a

positive, enjoyable, creative and inspiring manner. This will not only improve the mental health of the students but will improve the mental health of all staff as they experience the benefits of outdoor learning.

At Newbold School we have introduced a Forest School skill-based curriculum that is now part of our weekly learning in EYFS and Key Stage 1 and termly learning in Key Stage 2. Discrete outdoor learning lessons/activities will be timetabled for EYFS and Key Stage 1. Key Stage 2 will be taking part in three half terms a year of discrete, high quality outdoor learning. This will be in addition to the separate outdoor learning the children will engage in with their class teachers.

### **Implementation**

We pride ourselves in being able to offer high standards for teaching and learning at Newbold and we want our Newbold children to reach their full potential. Therefore, we have introduced a progressive curriculum that begins in the EYFS (Willow and Cherry class) and continues to grow to its culmination in year 6 (Oak class). This curriculum encourages the children to develop a skill throughout each year. These new skills build on skills learned in previous years.

At Newbold we recognise every child is unique with different abilities and with different ways of learning. Children's differences and unique contributions are celebrated at Forest School. We are blessed with a beautiful outdoor learning environment ranging from the grounds of Newbold College and woodlands to the school garden. It is here the majority of the learning will take place. We also venture to areas like Popes Meadow and the Bluebell Woods to give the children a wider range of experience and allow them to become more familiar with the world surrounding them.

### **Impact**

Forest School allows children to become more able to regulate their social, mental, emotional and spiritual health. This is particularly beneficial for SEND children. Children are more able to work collaboratively. They are more accepting of others and can find ways to support each other. These kinds of activities help children in their school career as well as preparing them for life in the wider world where cooperation and acceptance are key features in successful relationships.

Children become more closely connected to their environment. They are more aware of their surroundings and the plants and animals that exist there. They understand that they have to act responsibly as custodians of the planet and use the world's resources sparingly.

Forest School also fits in with our PSHE Growth Mindset educational activities. It is here that we can put these ideas into practice as we have to keep trying, use logical thinking to solve problems, reassess situations and deal with mistakes using a positive mindset.