



Forest Schools

Curriculum Statement

Forest Schools at Our Lady of the Rosary intends to nurture children to become resilient, confident, independent and creative learners. It has become an integral part of the children's 'outdoor and adventurous play' element of PE, as well as a stand alone area of learning. Forest School encourages a positive relationship between the children and the natural world and takes place within the school grounds.

Forest School at OLOR provides children with the opportunity to learn about risk taking and encourages a learner-centred approach, with the teacher responding to the interests of the children. It intends to encourage the social, emotional, physical and intellectual development of children and values the importance of learning through 'play'. Forest School is an opportunity for children to succeed and build confidence in a different environment to the classroom, whatever the weather.

What does Forest Schools look like at Our Lady of the Rosary?

- ♦ Forest School is taught in a very different environment to the classroom and is structured in a different format to class teaching. 'Rules' are established from the beginning which are based around safety and taking responsible risks.
- ♦ Children experience Forest School in groups of 15 for one term each year. Where possible, we aim for the children to experience Forest School in a different season to the previous year.
- ♦ Forest School takes place within the school grounds where children explore pond life, trees and grassy areas. Where appropriate, sessions are cross-curricular.
- ♦ A session will be introduced with a focus on a skill, for example how to use tools to whittle, saw and drill, make a shelter or identify trees and plants. Children then explore this activity, taking it in different directions.
- ♦ Sessions end with children sharing their experiences and discoveries.





Key characteristics of Forest Schools at Our Lady of the Rosary

- ♦ The natural environment is explored and the importance of taking care of our world plays a key part in the children's learning.
- ♦ Working with others and developing the children's social skills runs throughout the activities the children undertake in Forest School.
- ♦ Themes are followed in each year group to ensure children have the opportunity to apply a range of skills to different situations. However, children are not restricted to these themes and can guide their own learning.
- ♦ The use of tools is one of the key parts of Forest School and often the first experience a child may have to explore how these work.



- ♦ Forest School sessions take place whatever the weather conditions and children build up their resilience. The wetter the weather the more children seem



Curriculum Coverage

Year group	Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
General activities	Visit pond for pond dipping [T1,4,5 &6] Group game Explore the site. Revisit 'Rules'	Visit pond for pond dipping [T1,4,5 &6] Group game Investigate trees	Visit pond for pond dipping [T1,4,5 &6] Group game Den Making/ whittling	Visit pond for pond dipping [T1,4,5 &6] Group game Creative Exploring	Visit pond for pond dipping [T1,4,5 &6] Group game Lashing/ Tool skills	Visit pond for pond dipping [T1,4,5 &6] Group game Fire building
Reception T2	Natural Headdress	We are Going on a Bear hunt	Potion pots	Stick Man	Making a knot man	Building a fire. Cooking a marshmallow
Year 1 T 3& 4	Natural headdress Kim's Game	Tree bark rubbing/leaf rubbing Potion pots	A den for a hedgehog Potato peeler whittling	A clay hedgehog/reindeer Blackberry paint pictures	Reef knots Making a kite.	Building a fire. Cooking a marshmallow
Year 2 T3 &T4	Nature stick Kim's Game	Understanding Camouflage game	A den for a fox Potato peeler whittling-sticks	A clay fox	Reef knots	Building a fire Cooking marshmallows/crumpets
Year 3 T1& T2	Blackberry foraging Kim's Game	Explore a tree Blind folded Camouflage game	A den for us. Potato peeler/ knife/ Whittling Tent pegs	Clay Tree people	Charcoal painting Cc History/Art Using a saw	Fire lighting with fire steel Cooking crumpets/
Year 4 T4&T5	Colour swatch Moth game	Explore a tree Blind folded	A den for us Potato peeler/ knife/ Whittling wands	Clay Tree people/ Egyptian masks Using a drill	Lashing a picture frame/making a swing Using a saw	Fire lighting with fire steel Cooking chocolate bananas
Year 5 T1&T2	Scavenger Hunt Blackberry foraging	Exploring habitats	A den for us Potato peeler/ knife/ Whittling Bow and arrows	Conker people /clay reindeer	Lashing Using a saw/axe and drill	Fire lighting with fire steel- Kelly Kettle Making hot squash/ cooked apples
Year 6 T5&T6	Scavenger Hunt	Use/Make a tree key	A den for us Potato peeler/ knife/ Whittling Bow and arrows	Nature picture stories Drill Use	Using bill-hook/ saw/ axe . Making a mallet/	Fire lighting with fire steel- Kelly Kettle Making hot chocolate/ crumpets