



Forest School at Penryn Primary Academy

Aims and Ethos

Forest School is a practice that gives young people the opportunity to develop self-learning through natural play and positive outdoor experiences.

Forest School helps young people to understand the importance of nature and the environment. The ethos of Forest School allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. Giving children this freedom and independence of their learning, allows them to choose achievable tasks, which can help build self-esteem and self-confidence and to learn to make choices in every area of their lives.

What sort of activities go on at Forest School?

Forest School sessions are primarily child-led. The role of the Forest School Leaders and adults is to facilitate and scaffold learning. At the end of each session there is time for children to reflect on their learning and plan what they would like to do or what they may need in the following session. Our sessions are tailored to meet the needs of the children as they grow in confidence, skills and understanding. Young people can learn about tree and plant life and how to protect them, fire safety and camp fire cooking, shelter building, knots, safe use of tools, woodland crafts, natural art activities and more. Working with fire and tools allows young people to manage risk and take responsibility for their learning, themselves and the people around them. This responsibility in turn leads to young people gaining a greater sense of self-worth, self-confidence, self-esteem, leadership and communication skills.



What benefits will my child get from participating in Forest School?

- Health and fitness – Being active in an outdoor, natural environment.
- Increased emotional wellbeing – just being amongst trees has been shown to have a real positive effect.
- Social development – Communicating, sharing, negotiating and problem-solving and increased confidence.
- Skills development – Developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination for real purposes.
- Gaining knowledge and understanding – Multi-sensory, real-life learning, learning to care for our green spaces and wildlife.
- Individualised learning – Careful observation allows adults to tailor support to children's own interests and stages of development.
- Curriculum links – Forest School supports many areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, National Curriculum and the 'Every Child Matters' agenda.

