



Forest School at Rosehill Methodist Primary Academy

What is Forest School?

Forest School is an inspirational process that encourages and develops all areas of all children's learning. The forest school ethos inspires creativity and opens up opportunities for children to foster a deeper understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Children attending Rosehill forest school have the opportunity (through regular visits) to 'get up close' with nature through all seasons. This enables children to make a connection with their surrounding environment. Children are given the opportunity to investigate and explore this environment at their own pace and interest through a child led approach, which is nurtured and facilitated by our qualified forest school practitioner.

Time spent at Rosehill forest school will be beneficial to all children's development both body and mind. Children are given time to be reflective in how they manage to self-regulate themselves socially or during activities, which is a vital skill for any child. Forest school has been proven to boost children's confidence, self-esteem, resilience and independence through them being exposed to managed risks, and learning from experience in a natural setting.

Children at Rosehill are able to develop in all areas of the curriculum through problem solving tasks, teamwork, forest management, risk assessing, speaking and listening and the activities which they take part in. All skills learnt are then easily transferable back to the classroom enabling children to achieve more.

Where is our Forest School?

We are very lucky to have a beautiful woodland setting within our school grounds. secretly tucked away behind the football astro turf- boasting a variety of trees, shrubs, brambles and an abundance of wildlife.

Future and ongoing developments for our forest area are as follows: vegetable patch, bee garden, butterfly garden, fairy garden, birdwatch hut, barefoot walk, willow tunnels, secret hobbit dwelling, treehouse, mudslide, tree swing...

Exciting times! However, this will take time, so our first year plan is to establish our very own vegetable plot along with the bee, butterfly and fairy garden!

What do our parents/carers and children from Rosehill have to say?

"I can't believe how inquisitive my son has become about nature. He is spotting things that he would not normally be interested in. He seems to be more aware of what is around him. He is even telling me the names of plants and trees! He is asking me more questions about nature, wanting to know why and how. It is fantastic that something inside of him just seems to have been switched on!"

Parent from a year 3 child

“My daughter absolutely loves forest school. You can tell they learn all about risk assessing she does it at home, especially on the way to school telling me not to walk too close to the road and pay attention to any wildlife on the pavement, so I don’t walk on it. So now, our 15-minute walk to school has turned into a half hour one, which I do not mind at all. It is lovely talking to her about what we can see and hear on our way to school each morning.”

Parent from a year 3 child

“I usually just spend all of my time on my phone, I didn’t realise just how much fun nature was. I can’t wait until I go out again – It’s brilliant!”

Year 5 child

“All I can say about forest school is... I love it, I love it, I love it!”

Year 2 child

“Usually my child has no urgency to get ready for school in the mornings. It’s a nightmare to get out of the house on time, but you should see him move on the days he has forest school - plus he has a big beaming smile on his face!

Parent from a year 3

“I love being close to nature. It makes me feel happy.”

Year 1 child

“I love whittling. I feel like all my worries just slip away. My little baby brother stresses me out but when I was whittling all that busy stuff in my head seemed to calm down. I felt peace and calm in my own little world, whittling and listening to the birds”

Year 4 child

Please remember to keep an eye on our forest school web page. Not only will you be able to see what your children are getting up to, but you will also be able to see up and coming events related to the forest school, such as half term forest day experiences, and Sunday gardening with the community!

