



# Forest School Intent, Implementation, and Impact Statement

## Intent

At Inkpen Primary School, our Forest School programme is designed to foster holistic development in children through an engaging, nature-based learning experience. We aim to:

- **Promote Personal and Social Skills:** By encouraging teamwork, resilience, and independence, we strive to develop confident individuals who can navigate social dynamics effectively.
- **Enhance Emotional Wellbeing:** Our immersive outdoor environment allows children to express themselves, cope with challenges, and build emotional intelligence, promoting overall mental health.
- **Encourage a Love for Nature:** We believe in instilling a sense of wonder and respect for the environment, equipping children with the knowledge and skills to care for their surroundings.
- **Facilitate Experiential Learning:** Our programme focuses on hands-on experiences that enrich the curriculum, allowing children to make connections between theoretical knowledge and real-world applications.

## Implementation

The Forest School programme is embedded within the school curriculum and follows a carefully structured approach:

1. **Curriculum Integration:** Activities are linked to the National Curriculum, with clear objectives for each session. We promote cross-curricular learning, linking subjects such as science, art, and literacy with outdoor explorations.
2. **Qualified Practitioners:** Our sessions are facilitated by trained Forest School leaders who possess the knowledge to facilitate safe, engaging activities while fostering an inclusive learning environment.
3. **Session Structure:** Each week, children participate in a two-hour session in a designated outdoor area, engaging in activities such as den building, foraging, nature crafts, and wildlife observation. This consistent approach fosters familiarity and confidence in the outdoor setting.

4. **Child-Centred Learning:** Children are given the autonomy to lead their learning experiences through choice and exploration, encouraging curiosity and critical thinking.
5. **Risk Management and Safety:** While we encourage risk-taking as a part of learning, we ensure that all activities are supported by rigorous risk assessments, prioritising children's safety while promoting a sense of adventure.
6. **Community Involvement:** We actively engage parents and the wider community by organising workshops and events that celebrate the learning taking place, fostering partnerships that enhance children's experiences.

## Impact

The impact of our Forest School programme is carefully evaluated to ensure that it meets the intended outcomes:

1. **Reflective Practise:** We collect feedback from children, parents, and staff through discussions, which inform continuous improvement of our Forest School offering.
2. **Academic and Personal Development:** Evidence of progress can be seen in improved academic outcomes, particularly in areas that benefit from experiential learning. Additionally, we monitor behavioural changes, noting enhanced social skills, increased confidence, and reduced anxiety levels among participants.
3. **Nature Connection:** Children demonstrate a heightened awareness and appreciation for nature, evidenced by their enthusiasm to engage in environmental stewardship projects, such as community clean-ups and biodiversity initiatives.
4. **Life Skills for the Future:** Our children leave the programme equipped with vital life skills, including problem-solving, collaboration, and adaptability, thus preparing them to face future challenges confidently.
5. **Sustained Engagement:** The popularity of the programme amongst pupils indicates a strong engagement with learning, leading to high levels of attendance and enthusiasm for school.

By continuously assessing our intent, implementation, and impact, we ensure that our Forest School programme remains a transformative and essential part of our educational offering.