



Forest School

Intent

The Forest School Association (FSA) define Forest School as ‘an inspirational process, that offers ALL learners regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands-on learning experiences in a woodland or natural environment with trees.’

This aligns strongly with Griffin’s pedagogical aims. The majority of our students live in the surrounding Patmore housing estate and therefore have very limited access to high quality outside space. We have created our own beautiful woodland sanctuary on site - our ***Forest in the City*** - to give our students access to nature and the outdoors, as part of their Griffin experience.



Implementation

The sessions involve practical hands-on activities which aim to build up participants' skills, abilities and confidence week by week.

All ***Forest in the City*** sessions are underpinned by the 6 basic principles of Forest School, and are designed and led by our trained Forest School leaders. Forest School strongly encourages participant-led learning, so as the weeks progress, learners are given more freedom and responsibility to explore their interests and therefore initiate and direct their own learning. Forest School uses natural resources to stimulate imagination, creativity and investigation. Activities can include shelter building, natural art, fire lighting and cooking, climbing and balancing, woodwork, interactions with insects and so on...!

Most sessions and ideas are curriculum-linked and span a number of subjects, including Maths, SMSC, English, Design & Technology, Science, Music and Art and Design.



Impact



"I love mud. I love making mud soup!"

(Mia, Y1)



"I forget my troubles when I'm in the forest. It makes me feel calm. It is my happy place in the school."

(Josh, Y5)