

Why a Forest School at Bishop's Tachbrook?

Forest schools have developed through understanding the benefits and sharing the values of being outdoors.

At BT School we have planted our own Orchard, developed raised vegetable beds, planted natural hedgerow along the school boundary, built a path around the School grounds to allow access even when the grass is water-logged and look forward to developing further our woodland Spinney with the children. In these areas children can explore and learn new skills.

Forest Schools provide opportunities to explore, discover and play though having regular access and experiences of the natural world through all seasons. The Forest School programme is designed and delivered by two qualified Forest School leaders who are part of the Onside Coaching Team. Forest School promotes positive relationships, challenges and appropriate risk taking, whilst naturally developing the whole child.

What happens in our Forest School?

The planning is not all curriculum led but many areas of The National Curriculum are covered in the Forest School Experience. The leaders plan sessions to reflect individual learning styles and follow the children's lead, promoting free and independent play and exploration.

The children can explore, be creative and start investigating. They will learn the boundaries of behaviour, grow in self esteem and confidence and become increasingly self motivated.

The group use full size hand tools for some of the tasks. We follow the appropriate procedures as shown at the beginning of the session and under supervision. Children learn about the safe use of fire and the skills to light and manage a fire safely.

The session ends with a review. Pupils and Forest School Leaders reflect on what they have done and learnt together.

We can get very muddy and wet, but that is all part of the fun!