



## Forest School Policy 2026

Approved by (date) .....

Signed on behalf of the Governing Body .....

To be reviewed: September 2028

## Introduction

At Thrussington C of E Primary School, we recognise the importance of outdoor education and the benefits it brings to our pupils. Our Forest School program provides a unique and enriching learning experience in a natural environment. This policy outlines our approach to Forest School and sets the framework for its successful implementation.

## Aims and Objectives

- **Nature Connection:** Our primary aim is to foster a strong connection between students and the natural world, instilling a sense of appreciation and respect for the environment.
- **Holistic Development:** We seek to promote holistic development, encompassing physical, emotional, social, and cognitive growth through experiential outdoor learning.
- **Curiosity and Exploration:** We aim to nurture curiosity, independence, and a love for learning by encouraging pupils to explore and engage with the natural surroundings.
- **Risk Management:** We prioritise safety while allowing pupils to take calculated risks, fostering resilience and a sense of responsibility.

## Program Structure

- **Frequency:** Our Forest School sessions are held regularly, allowing pupils to develop a deep and lasting connection with the natural world.
- **Qualified Forest School Leaders:** Miss Berry is a qualified Forest School leader who is trained to create a safe and engaging learning environment in nature.
- **Age-Appropriate Activities:** Activities are chosen based on the age and developmental stage of the pupils, ensuring they are both challenging and achievable.

## Curriculum Integration

- **Cross-Curricular Learning:** Forest School activities are designed to align with the school's curriculum, integrating subjects such as science, mathematics and art into outdoor experiences.

- **Nature Study:** Pupils engage in hands-on nature study, learning about local flora and fauna, ecology and environmental stewardship.

## Health and Safety

- **Risk Assessments:** We conduct regular risk assessments of the forest environment and establish safety protocols to minimise potential hazards.
- **First Aid:** Qualified staff trained in first aid are present during all Forest School sessions.
- **Clothing and Equipment:** Pupils are required to wear appropriate clothing and equipment to ensure their comfort and safety during outdoor activities.

## Parent/Guardian Involvement

- **Communication:** We maintain open communication with parents/guardians, providing information about Forest School sessions and their educational value.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Parents/guardians are welcome to participate in Forest School sessions and offer their expertise.

## Evaluation and Review

This Forest School policy is subject to regular evaluation to ensure its effectiveness and alignment with best practices in outdoor education.

## Conclusion

At Thrussington C of E Primary School, we believe that a Forest School program enriches the educational experience by providing pupils with hands-on, immersive learning opportunities in the natural world. We are committed to fostering a deep connection between our pupils and the environment, nurturing their development, and empowering them with the skills and knowledge to become responsible stewards of nature.