



## Our Forest Schools Curriculum

This is part of the Forest Education Initiative (FEI) which has been set up by the Forestry Commission to increase the understanding and appreciation of the environmental, social, and economic potential of trees, woodlands and forests and of the link between the tree and everyday wood products.

The Forest Schools approach is a particular form of outdoor education where children visit a familiar woodland area every week (in our case either on site in our own Forest School or in nearby Randwick Wood) and learn through a range of practical tasks, games and playful activities. It originated in Scandinavia, where it is still used as an important part of nursery education. It has since been developed for use with older children.



It has been found that the benefits to children who take part in these tasks, games and activities have been:

- **They learn to work and play together.**
- **They develop their communication and socialisation skills.**



## Randwick Primary School: Resilience, Passion, Success

- **The tasks are carefully chosen and broken down into small steps to enable the children to experience success. This boosts their self-esteem.**
- **They learn to transfer learning from school to the forest and back again.**
- **They learn to enjoy themselves.**
- **They learn to observe environmental change and thus learn about the forest environment.**

Specific activities include:

- treasure hunts
- collecting things
- making a home for an animal
- making shelters
- making fires
- campfire cooking
- wide games (like Capture the Flag)
- hide and seek
- following wool trails
- looking for particular things (for example, a big leaf, some beech buds)
- looking after the forest, including activities such as clearing litter, whittling, sawing and cleaving wood
- picnics

There are three Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF) recognised Forest School training qualifications:



## Randwick Primary School: Resilience, Passion, Success

- OCNWMR Level 1 Award in Introduction to Forest School Principles (QCF)
  - OCNWMR Level 2 Award in Forest School Programme Support (QCF)
- OCNWMR Level 3 Certificate in Forest School Programme Leadership (QCF)

One of our teachers is trained to level 3, and one of our Teaching Assistants is undertaking the Level 3 course this year. The course is designed to qualify the trainee to become a Forest School practitioner, able to set up and run a Forest School programme. Level 3 covers how to facilitate groups in a learner-centred way, and how to manage a Forest School site sustainably. It also covers the practical skills required of a Forest School practitioner.

We work closely with an external Forest School Leader, Carrie Roet, who supports staff and leads a successful after-school club.