



St John's Stonefold CE Primary School, Rising Bridge

Whole School Policy St John's Stonefold Forest School	
Written By	P Burns
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Approved by FGB	June 2025
Date of Review	September 2025

Values:

Empathy Aspiration Generosity Love Endurance

Mission:

Rooted and Established in God's Love: Nurture, Grow, Fly (Ephesians 3:17)

Vision:

Our vision is to live and grow together as a loving church school family, who celebrate one another's individuality. Built upon our shared Christian values, St John's provides our children with excellent teaching of a bespoke and innovative curriculum, empowering them to flourish with the knowledge and skills for life.

From our vision, we inspire our children to have uncompromising aspirations and to thrive and succeed.

Introduction:

Forest School is a unique method of Outdoor Education that allows children to develop confidence, independence, self-esteem and awareness and knowledge of the natural environment. At St John's Stonefold, we offer a broad, balanced & inclusive curriculum which acts as a starting point to stimulate awe, wonder & curiosity and which encompasses 'Nurture, Grow, Fly' so that children are empowered and able to achieve their full potential.

Aims and objectives

- to provide high quality outdoor learning to engage, inspire and challenge our children.
- to provide memorable learning experiences that support and enhance other areas of the school curriculum through high quality outdoor experiences and provision.

- to provide an engagement with nature and the environment for health, wellbeing and developing character, resilience and positive risk taking.
- to foster a connection that leads to respect and care for the natural world, an appreciation of biodiversity and sustainability.
- to develop resilience and be prepared to take risks in order to persevere with learning even when it is tough.
- To develop positive relationships and nurturing behaviours linked to our core values of 'Empathy Aspiration Generosity Love Endurance'.

Curriculum

At St John's Stonefold Primary School, Forest School is part of the layered curriculum that is offered from EYFS (Reception) to Year 6 and promotes a holistic, cross-curricular approach that supports in-depth learning across many areas of learning. Forest School also offers the flexibility for children's learning to be driven by their interests, allowing them to develop their own play and exploration and in turn developing the characteristics of effective learning.

Forest School forms part of the whole school approach and curriculum model in partnership with the EYFS Educational Programmes and National Curriculum in order to identify outdoor learning opportunities. In doing so, it enriches and supports coverage of the necessary skills and knowledge to meet EYFS and National curriculum expectations.

Teaching and Learning

To ensure good quality of teaching and learning in Forest School, we use a knowledge and skills overview that supports the EYFS Educational Programmes and National Curriculum and ensures a clear progression of knowledge and skills from Reception through to Year 6.

Equality and Inclusion

Forest School at St John's Stonefold Primary School aims to provide a secure learning environment in which all contributions are valued and all children can flourish and achieve their full potential, regardless of their background, ability or needs.

Health and Safety

The Forest School's curriculum supports children to develop responsibility for themselves and others. It will encourage early risk management strategies that will ensure that young children start to consider the impact of their actions on themselves and on others. Children must be reminded of the risks and possible hazards when in the outdoor areas. A site risk assessment has been carried out for the sessions and a daily site check must be carried out before each Forest School session. A qualified first aider must attend the session

Monitoring and review

The Forest School Lead is responsible for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of this policy and should feedback as necessary to the senior leadership team and curriculum leads.

