



# 'The best classroom and the richest classroom is roofed only by the sky'

**(Margaret McMillan)**

## **Introduction and Intent**

At The Forest School, we have our very own onsite 'Forest School' known as 'Woodland Adventure'! Woodland Adventure is a child-centred learning process, providing pupils with hands-on experiences in the natural environment. It is a long-term programme which supports play, exploration and supported risk taking, therefore, it is important that every pupil at the Forest School has the opportunity to partake in weekly timetabled sessions. These sessions begin in the Early Years, lead by an approved therapeutic Forest School practitioner and then continue into Key Stage 3 to support mental health and wellbeing. Our Key Stage 4 pupils deepen their knowledge of the natural world and understanding of where food comes from, by learning to grow their own in our onsite polytunnels, in our raised beds or at the Knaresborough Community Allotment. Learning outside the classroom environment is beneficial to pupils, consolidating all areas of the curriculum and enhancing our Physical Development curriculum.

The National Curriculum states pupils should:

- *take part in outdoor and adventurous activities which present intellectual and physical challenges and be encouraged to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group*



In Key Stage 4 pupils will have the opportunity to gain AQA certification alongside their gained skills, knowledge and appreciation of nature.



**Topic / Theme Planner**



[Topic / Theme Ideas](#) which can be covered throughout the year:

September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July
Harvest Festival	Seed Gathering Season	Outdoor Classroom Day	World Soil Day	New Year	Hedgehog Day	St.David's Day	World Autism Day	Gardening Week	30 Days Wild	Fieldwork Fortnight
Zero Waste Week	Walktober	Bonfire	Robin Day	RSPB Bird Watch	Children's Mental Health Week	Wildlife Day	John Muir Day	Mental Health Awareness Week	Farming Fortnight	Festival of Archeology
	Space Week	Protect Our Planet Day	Christmas	Red Squirrels	Chinese New Year	Science Week	Earth Day	Orienteering Day	Eat Healthy Week	Map Reading Week
	Recycle Week	Diwali		Story Telling Week	Shrove Tuesday	Mother's Day	St George's Day	Outdoor Classroom Day	Father's Day	
	National Forest School Day				Valentine's Day	Great British Spring Clean			Summer Solstice	
	Bat Week					Easter				
	Halloween									



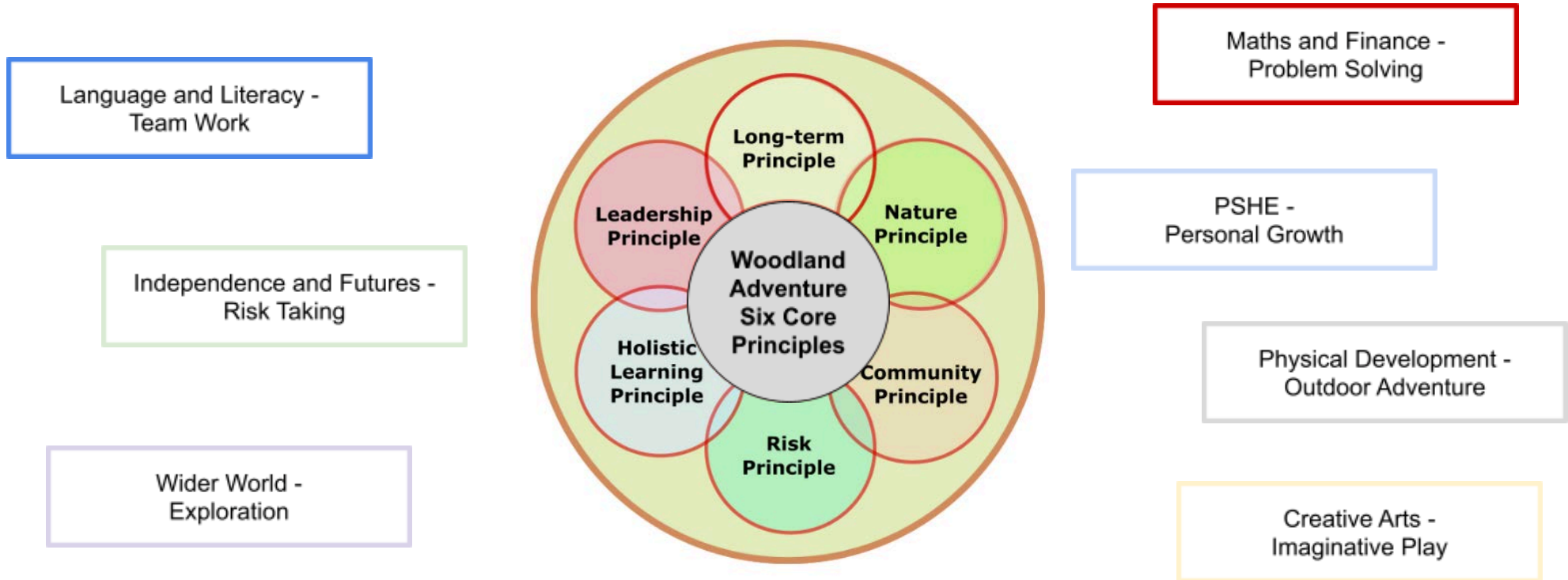
Through being outdoors, children can learn many skills of social interaction and friendship through first hand experience with a range of natural materials and begin to appreciate the natural world around them.



### **Primary Curriculum**

<https://forestschoollassociation.org/full-principles-and-criteria-for-good-practice/>

Woodland Adventure is based around emotional, spiritual, physical and communication development. Students will learn how to work together as a team, show respect for others, and be curious about, and respectful towards, their outdoor surroundings. This will include plants and local wildlife. Woodland Adventure is learner-centred, and the lessons are responsive to the needs and interests of the group. Learners are encouraged to play and make their own choices, which helps to support their development of communication skills.



Woodland Adventure is adaptable to the weather and the needs of the students. Staff will “be present” and actively engage with the students, encouraging play and exploration through modelling, scaffolding and encouragement. When appropriate, The Forest School Leader will construct and supervise a small fire. This will further support communication skills as students will be able to make choices during snack time.

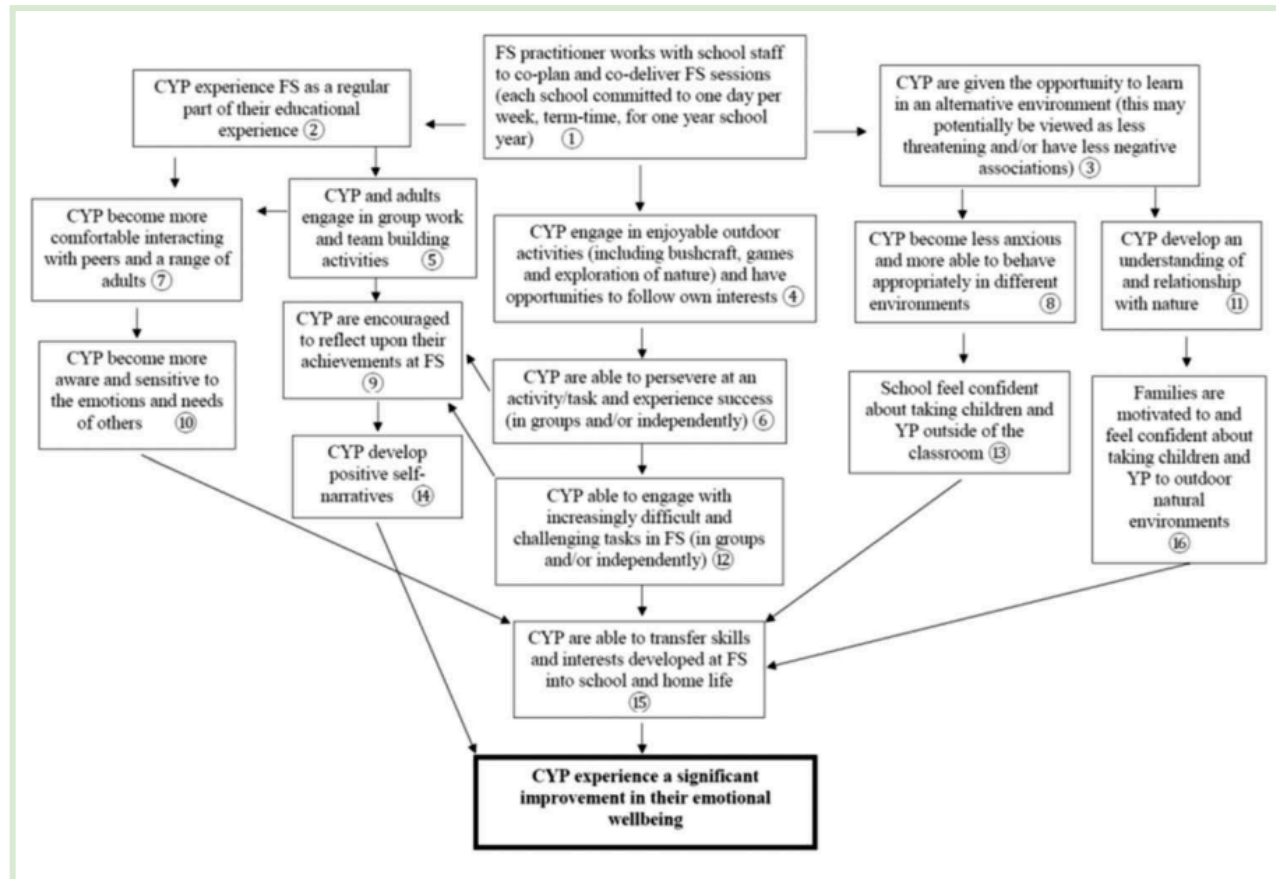
Students can also develop their independence skills by organising the equipment they need for the Woodland Adventure lessons, both by organising their belongings from home and by supporting the group with resources from school. All learning is monitored through the cycle of planning, observation, adaptation, review and linked to National Curriculum classroom themes and topics where possible.



**KS3 (Year 7, Year 8, Year 9) Curriculum**

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ea/public/learningoutdoorssupportteam/uploads/sites/11891/2020/08/31103707/Forest-School-for-wellbeing-a-n-environment-in-which-young-people-can-take-what-they-need.pdf>

Research shows that children and young people are stimulated by the outdoors and typically experience, over time, an increase in their self belief, confidence, learning capacity, enthusiasm, communication and problem-solving skills and emotional well-being.



Our aim is to promote positive wellbeing and equip pupils with the skills and tools to lead fulfilling and enriching lives. Rather than trying to make sure pupils are happy all the time, we want to ensure that they have the resilience and decision-making skills to overcome obstacles if and when they occur.



**KS4 (Year 10 and Year 11) Curriculum**

Through gardening, children can develop a greater appreciation for healthy foods, learn about sustainable practices, and gain valuable life skills. Pupils will build their knowledge, understanding and skills each year and be able to sell their produce.



November, December and January are the months for reflection, garden maintenance and learning about what happens beneath the soil.