



**Ivington C of E
Primary and
Pre-school**

*Reaching together... 'stand firm in your faith, be
courageous and strong' – 1 Corinthians 16:13*

**The Forest School Intent,
Implementation & Impact**

Linking with our Vision



To provide a caring, Christian ethos for the school, which inspires and excites a shared enthusiasm for life and learning.

At Ivington CE Primary and Pre-school, through our strong Christian ethos and focus on 12 important Christian values, we are committed to providing a deeply nourishing, spiritual, ambitious, and broad curriculum. Our motto, 'Reaching together' underpins our belief in equality of opportunity for all, where we actively endeavour to promote understanding and appreciation of our racially diverse society and give each child a special place in the world where they feel valued, essential to our community and equipped with the necessary skills to make a positive contribution. We perceive our role to be opening a 'window on the World', through which our pupils are actively encouraged to develop respect for the beliefs and cultures which enrich their everyday lives and encourage others to do likewise.

We strive to eliminate inequality through our deep Christian ethos of tolerance and understanding of all groups in society, which ensures that everyone at Ivington will be treated fairly despite his or her creed, colour, disability, or gender.

More details are available in our Inclusion, Racial Equality and Equal Opportunities policies.

The health, safety, and welfare of all the people who work or learn at our school are therefore of fundamental importance. We aim to provide a safe, secure, and pleasant working environment for everyone. The governing body, along with the LA, takes responsibility for protecting the health, safety and welfare of all children and members of staff.

The Forest School Ethos

At Ivington CE Primary and Pre-school we love Forest School. Forest School is a child-centred inspirational learning process, that supports our children to grow through play, exploration and supported risk taking. Forest School develops confidence and self-esteem through learner inspired, hands-on experiences in a natural setting.

Forest School helps children develop socially, emotionally, spiritually, physically and intellectually. It creates a safe, nurturing environment for children to try things out and take risks. Forest School inspires a deep and meaningful connection to the world. It stimulates awe and wonder and a deeper connection to the natural world and respect for all living things.

Forest School is a unique educational experience and process that offers children the opportunity to succeed and develop confidence and self-esteem through hands on learning experiences in a woodland environment.

Children engage in motivating and achievable tasks and activities throughout the year and in almost all weathers, with appropriate footwear and clothing. Children will work with tools, play, learn and begin to understand the boundaries of behaviour, both physical and social. They will grow in confidence, self-esteem and motivation whilst developing an understanding of the natural world.

The Forest School concept originates in Denmark, originally aimed at Pre-school children, where it was found that children who attended forest schools then arrived at school with strong social skills and communication skills, having the ability to work in groups effectively, generally had high self-esteem and confidence in their own abilities. These foundations helped them to raise their academic achievements.

Intent

At Ivington Church of England Primary and Pre- School we aim to enable each child attending Forest School sessions to have the opportunity to develop an inquisitive and positive relationship with the natural world. We aim to increase confidence, self-esteem and respect in order to prepare children for an ever-changing world. We wish to give every child an opportunity to achieve their holistic potential. Children are born inquisitive, and it is our role to nurture this natural curiosity and guide them towards looking at the world and noticing, with awe and wonder, the natural and man-made delights all around us. We want to encourage them to ask 'big questions' about life, religion, nature, science and any other area of fascination.

Our Aims:

- To provide an opportunity for individuals to develop, to learn and to enjoy themselves.
- To provide a safe and non-threatening environment in which children can take risks, make choices and initiate their own learning.
- To help children understand, appreciate and care for the natural environment.
- To provide ways of developing practical life skills in an outdoor environment.
- To develop self-esteem, confidence and a positive disposition to learning through the completion of small, achievable tasks.
- To meet the needs of children with all learning styles
- To develop social and team working skills

- To enable children to be independent, self-motivated and considerate.
- To be true to the Forest School ethos and approach
- To develop a secure, happy and welcoming environment
- To provide stimulation and varied learning activities appropriate to the child's needs and stages of development.

To help each child build self-esteem, confidence, independence and self-control and interpersonal skills.

Implementation

At Ivington Church of England Primary and Pre- School we aim to give all children an insight into the ethos of Forest School.

Forest School builds on a child's positive attitude to learning, offering them the opportunities to take risks, make choices and initiate learning for themselves. The Forest School learning environment provides opportunities for children to develop self-esteem, self-confidence, to form positive relationships with others, to develop a growing awareness of their emotional needs and the needs of others, to learn to cooperate and work with their peers and adults and to develop strategies in order to take risks within the boundaries of safety.

Forest School is about exploring and experiencing the natural world through play.

The child can access the forest at their own level, be it age related or ability. The recapping of previous skills and knowledge allows access for all. The child initiated approach gives a greater level of understanding and engagement. The children are actively choosing appropriate equipment or tools that they need.

Impact

Children will grow in confidence as a result of the freedom, time and space they are given in their learning. This allows them to demonstrate independence at each individual child's rate.

The children will begin to understand, assess and manage their own risk and safety. This will allow the children to become more independent and show them that life comes with not only risk but also rewards. It also teaches them what their own limits are and that they can push through them. They will see that sometimes we don't always get the desired result the first time but that doesn't make us a failure, it helps us to grow, forcing us to try again in a different way. Forest schools encourages problem solving, logical thinking and self-reflection and evaluation.

Activities such as sharing tools and participating in play, help teach the children to work together as a group, which strengthens their bonds and social skills. The review time at the end of each session allows time for this self-reflection and for all children to share their successes.

The sensory experiences provided by Forest School helps prompt language development. A vaster vocabulary that is learnt in situ, in a hands on experience. The adult can play a role of just observing, coming along side, modelling, supporting or encouraging.

Children develop an interest in the great outdoors and respect for the natural world around them. The changing seasons and weather offer a wealth of interest and opportunities.

We measure the impact of our curriculum through the images and videos of the children's practical learning and talking to the children about their learning during reflection (pupil voice).