

Forest School

Forest School Training

Shropshire Council deliver the Open College Network (OCN) Level 3 course in Forest School Leadership.

The Level 3 course involves 5 days taught element, with an overnight residential at a Forest School Site. A compulsory 2 day First Aid course and then six months to complete a portfolio of evidence.

For further information, please see the training page on the website or contact; earlyyearscpd@shropshire.gov.uk



Photograph taken by Jim Stephens

For further information or to express your interest look at our Forest School Site: www.shropshire.gov.uk/forestschools.nsf



Contact

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An Inspirational Learning Opportunity in Shropshire since 2002





Photograph taken by Jim Stephens

What is Forest School?

- Forest School is an approach to education that embraces the outdoors as a learning environment
- It is about children, young people and adults experiencing regular, weekly sessions in a designated Forest School site
- Children follow their usual curriculum but in an outdoor context, using learning and teaching strategies which raise self-esteem, develop confidence, independence and language and communication skills
- Children are intrinsically motivated outdoors. The natural world stimulates their desire to learn and discover. We all learn better when we have a real interest in what we are doing.
- Many children and young people benefit from and prefer a practical element to their learning, and achieve greater levels of success in this context than a traditional classroom environment
- Behaviour and desire to learn improve and impact on achievement

- At Forest School children learn to assess and manage risks and develop life long learning skills
- Forest School has physical, social and health benefits; helping young people to enjoy physical activity outdoors in increasingly sedentary lives
- Confidence increases in the natural environment, with respect, knowledge and understanding about environmental issues locally and nationally

Forest School Sessions

In Shropshire, Forest School sessions are delivered both on school grounds and in exemplar woodland sites.

Shropshire Council employ a team of Forest School Leaders that deliver Forest School sessions. The delivery team all have an OCN Level 3 in Forest School Leadership.

The sessions are delivered at the exemplar woodland sites which are situated around the county;

- Hadnall
- Condover
- Nr Oswestry
- Nr Ludlow



In addition to this there are over 150 Forest School practitioners that deliver Forest School sessions on their school grounds. This provides a sustainable Forest School experience which benefits the whole school.



Photograph taken by Jim Stephens

All Weathers

Forest School takes place in all weathers and all seasons. Children and adults must be dressed appropriately as 'there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing'.



Children are encouraged to explore and investigate; they need clothes that enable them to do this. As a parent in Shropshire said 'You can wash away the mud, but you can't wash away the experience'.