

# **Avonwood Primary School**

## **Forest School Policy**



**November 2025**

**Subject Leader: Mrs Pritchard**

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## 1.0 Our Forest School Vision

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At Avonwood, we see it as our moral imperative for all children, regardless of background, to achieve their very best. Forest School Friday 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 Avonwood, we believe in developing the whole child. Alongside helping them grow in confidence, outdoor learning is proven to promote the development of good mental health, which will set the children up to have an optimistic quality of life.

This is fully supported by the Framework for Excellence within United Learning which states, “Academic success is very important... But there is more to a good education. We want young people to look back on a joyful schooling which has inspired and challenged them, given them wide opportunity and prepared them for the ups and downs of life.”

The fundamental aims laid out by Forest School are:

- To provide children with experiences that encourage an appreciation, awareness, and knowledge of the natural environment.
- To learn to respect and care for their own local environment.
- To abide by rules and a set standard of behaviour, to work cooperatively in groups and to respect each other.
- To develop children’s self-esteem and self-confidence.

Forest School Fridays are different at Avonwood as they are designed by our Forest School lead Craig Summer (owner of the company ‘Fresh Air Club’) to include links to the curriculum and many sessions have been planned alongside Avonwood staff to enhance the children’s learning, bringing awe and wonder into the classroom, as well as the great outdoors. Our core aim is to remind children that even within this ever-changing, modern world that we live in, we are linked to the natural world around us and it is this knowledge and understanding that will enable children to be active citizens in their future.

## 2.0 Earth Charter Promise

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We are incredibly proud to be the only Earth Charter school in the UK and at Avonwood, we fully embrace the eight Earth Charter Principles:

- Life
- Interconnected
- Family
- Past
- Earth
- Peace
- Love
- Future

These eight principles embody the fundamentals of Forest School and these thread through all activities as the children progress through their Forest School experience.

One of the principles of Forest School is to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainability. The children are taught about respect and responsibility for the world around them. Both the children and adults are encouraged to respect their environment and to be aware of conservation issues of the wild area around them.

Encouraging children to care for the environment is an essential part of Forest Schools. In order to encourage the children to look after the site, we will always leave it tidy and never damage anything growing in it. We will only collect things that are on the ground and leave the area as we found it when we leave.

We believe that through making this promise, Avonwood children will leave as well-rounded, socially responsible children who are ready to take responsibility for looking after our planet when making big choices in the future.

### 3.0 Forest School Curriculum Progression

|              | <u>Aut 1</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <u>Aut 2</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Spring 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Spring 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Summer 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Summer 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Special days | Year 5 survival day – Day 1 full day<br><b>Craig</b>                                                                                                                                                                 | Craig                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Rob                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Craig                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Rob                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Craig Yr 6) <u>and</u><br><u>Rob(Rec)</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Year group   | <b>Year 6</b><br>Team building skills<br><br>To use a bow drill to light fire<br>To put up a tarp with 3 knots<br>To use a transpiration bag<br>To make pine pitch<br>To make a pot hanger<br>To use the North Star. | <b>Year 3</b><br>History Link- Stone Age<br><br>To use a tinder card<br>To use a tarp to build different structures<br>I can identify 3 trees<br>I can make a water filter using natural materials<br>I can make string using raffia | <b>Year 5</b><br>To light a char cloth using flint and steel<br>To put up my own tent<br>To identify 5 trees<br>To make a solar still to produce safe drinking water.<br>To make string from stinging nettles.<br>To use shadows to track the sun. | <b>Year 4</b><br>To use natural tinder for fire lighting<br>To use a Siberian Hitch knot for shelter building<br>To understand sap use<br>How to remove the top 5 water contaminants<br>To build a wattle and daub wall<br>To make a tent peg<br>To follow a compass and use keys on maps | <b>Year 2</b><br>To use a fire steel<br>To look at materials which make waterproof shelters<br>Identify parts of a tree<br>To find water in the wild<br>To make a story stick<br>To safely use a hand drill and saw<br>Make maps | <b>Year 1/Reception</b><br>Reception- Part of Continuous Provision<br><br>Year <u>1</u> :<br>To be safe around fire<br>To make a shelter for a teddy bear<br>To identify leaves on a nature walk<br>To understand the importance of water<br>To make and fly a kite<br>To use a potato peeler<br>To guide my friends |