

Forest School is a long-term learning process taking place in an outdoor environment. Forest School is a learner-led approach which is based on a respect for children & young people, and their curiosity to initiate and investigate the natural world. Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners and enabling children and young people to grow socially, emotionally and physically.

We believe that children & young people should have the opportunity to play and explore in a safe and stimulating environment (woodland setting), experience controlled risks and develop their emotional intelligence through learner-led, hands on experiences.

Forest school is an inspirational process which offers children and young people, who may struggle to learn in a classroom environment, regular opportunities to develop and achieve, whilst discovering new ways of learning and developing strategies to support them to thrive in the world.

Children & young people are encouraged to follow their own interests, with experienced Forest School facilitators on hand to expand and scaffold these interests, allowing them to become more attentive and experience a deep and meaningful connection to the world.

Our Forest School aims to enable children & young people to;

- develop social skills
- develop practical skills by using tools to create and manage
- discover how they learn best
- explore their interests
- learn how to deal with failures
- build confidence with decision making
- understand connections between humans, animals and the natural surroundings
- experience regular successes and achievements
- improve their physical skills
- increase levels of concentration
- become more motivated

Combining Forest School experiences with Emotional Literacy support is an integral portion of our KS3 Curriculum to ensure children & young people form the vital building blocks for life. We believe that in order for young people to fulfil their full potential we must also ensure that they have secure emotional and social skills and good self-esteem.

Emotional Literacy Support is an intervention to support young people throughout their time at Oswaldtwistle School with many different aspects which may arise at certain times. We recognise that young people learn better and are happier in school if their emotional needs are addressed. Emotional Literacy Support sessions are here to aid the young people to understand their emotions and help to manage them in a healthy and well-balanced way.

