

# St Joseph's Woodland Warriors



***Let them look at the mountains and the stars up above. Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to think is the beginning of a real education.'***

***David Polis***

Woodland Warriors is based fundamentally on the Forest School ideally, which is based on respect for children and young people and for their capacity to instigate, test and maintain curiosity in the world around them. It believes in the child's right to play and learn; the right to access the outdoors (and in particular a woodland environment); the right to access risk and the vibrant reality of the natural world and the right to experience a healthy range of emotions through all the challenges of social interaction, in order to build a resilience that will enable continued and creative engagement with their peers and their potential. It is an approach to education that makes use of the outdoor environment to create a unique learning experience.

Woodland Warriors' sessions provide increasingly diverse opportunities for children to benefit from an outdoor curriculum that can help children build positive values and attitudes about themselves, about learning and the environment in which they live. Children are given appropriate, challenging and achievable tasks that build their confidence, skills, knowledge and independence.

***'Outdoor learning connects children and young people with the natural world, and encourages lifelong involvement and activity in the outdoors.'***

***Scottish Curriculum for Excellence***

## **Lesson Planning**

As an essential feature of St Joseph's Woodland Warriors/Forest School lessons plans are developed to empower children and promote growth in all areas of learning. Their aim is to empower children to take responsibility and to be independent learners. They offer the children the opportunity to use/transfer their learning into the outdoors whilst scaffolding as they start to explore and learn in a less structured environment.

At St Joseph's we teach a dynamic, continuously evolving curriculum. Curriculum planning takes into account both knowledge and skills all children need to develop through the theme or topic each term.

St Joseph's Woodland Warrior leader liaises with each class teacher to ensure that the planned sessions include:

- The skills and experiences the child experience at their time at Woodland Warriors are linked to the current theme/topic/subject.
- Ensure meaningful links are made to the children's classroom learning.



## **Observations**

All helpers at St Joseph's Woodland Warriors/Forest School contribute to the process of observing children's learning and development. At St Joseph's Woodland Warriors/Forest School we define observation as 'seeing without judging'.

Observations Involve:

- Watching, listening, taking into account body language, gestures and tone of voice.
- Specific recording of behavior and circumstances
- Observation rather than interpretation
- Observations may be noted on post-its or digitally.

## **Assessments**

St Joseph's Woodland Warriors/Forest School leader and assistants will assess learning through pupil interviews during the sessions, immediately after and before the following session.

All planning, observations and assessments follow the guidelines set out in the school's Assessment for Learning Policies.