

Forest School 3-year Curriculum Plan

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Ambition



Integrity



Inclusivity



Resilience



Endeavour

Our Vision

"Turning I can't into I can"

Our Values



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Curriculum Intent

"At The Beech Academy, we are committed to ensuring that all of our pupils engage in a curriculum that develops **interest, curiosity** and **creativity**, and **removes barriers**. There is a strong emphasis on developing fundamental skills in **literacy** and **numeracy** alongside developing **conceptual understanding** and **rich knowledge** across a broad range of subjects. The curriculum is enhanced by **high quality experiences** that aim to develop pupils' **cultural capital** and give them first hand experiences that otherwise might not be possible.

Every pupil is recognised as a unique individual and the **curriculum is designed to meet their individual needs**. All of our pupils will develop the skills to become contributing citizens to society and live out our **core values** of, Ambition, Integrity, Inclusivity, Endeavour and Resilience on a daily basis. Our curriculum will enhance the social mobility chances of all our pupils to ensure they make lasting contributions to society and enable them to turn "I can't" into "I can".



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Curriculum Vision for the *Forest School Curriculum Area*

- To help all students develop love, respect and appreciation for being outdoors and the natural world.
- To provide mental and physical variation to the school week to allow for those with different learning styles to express themselves.
- To provide the opportunity for students to create, explore and discover in a safe and open environment, exploring play styles and schemas at their own developmental stage.
- To give students the opportunity to work in the garden and outdoors with their hands and to watch growth and seasonal cycles.
 - To create positive experiences and memories outdoors.



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At Beech Academy, we are committed to ensuring that all of our pupils engage in a curriculum that develops interest, curiosity and creativity, and removes barriers. We make sure that we turn "I can't" into "I can".

At the end of Year 9 students in **Forest School** will

Know...

- How to enjoy themselves safely outdoors, either alone, with peers or adults.
- How to identify a wide variety of natural resources and use these appropriately.
 - How to help change local environments in a positive manner and feel empowered to make those positive changes for the benefit of themselves and their local community.

Understand...

- How to keep themselves and others safe while outdoors.
- The role they play on their local environment and what they can do to help.
- The physical and mental health benefits to regular time in nature doing physical activities.
 - The life cycle of a range of plants and how to cultivate them.

Be able to...

- Go outdoors alone or without adults in a confident, safe and enjoyable way.
- Be trusted to behave safely and responsibly while outdoors and when around other members of the public.
 - Create positive experiences for themselves and others while outdoors.
 - Grow a variety of fruits, veg and flowers from seeds, bulbs, and cuttings.



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3 Year Curriculum Plan	Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
Year 7	Safety, Teambuilding, Discovery	Navigation, Confidence	Plants and animals, Fitness
Year 8	Teambuilding	Bush craft	Horticulture, plants and animals.
Year 9	Risk Assessing	Fitness and environment	Plants and animals



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3 Year Curriculum Plan – the rationale

Year 7 Forest School at Beech Academy

The Beech Academy Year 7 Forest School curriculum prepares all pupils to go outdoors safely with staff, family or by themselves, it develops the knowledge of the natural world. The skills it focuses on will aid students develop into well rounded adults with a variety of interests and experiences.

Our pupils are studying these topics because they need to learn how to be relaxed outdoors as due to a range of factors (such as SEN as well as difficult home lives) many of our students have not developed these skills in the way they should have. The core soft skills we look to build on at forest school are teamwork, communication, risk assessments and confidence building.

The topics are studied in this order because we cannot enjoy freedom outdoors if we cannot be safe. In addition to this, trust must be built between staff and students to be able to let them have more freedom outdoors and while offsite.

Year 8 Forest School at Beech Academy

The Beech Academy Year 8 Forest School curriculum prepares all pupils to get on better as a group, it develops the knowledge of teamworking and self-confidence, the skills it focuses on will help bring together the students into a more unified and supportive class. If these skills can develop outside the classroom, hopefully they will carry over into the classroom.

Our pupils are studying these topics because they will help them come together as a group, support each other and better regulate their moods and behaviour during forest school lessons themselves, but also in their other classes and in their home life.

The topics are studied in this order because of seasonal changes and the availability of different flora/fauna at different times of year. Flexibility is built into the curriculum to allow for reactions to weather patterns etc.

This year will build on last year by giving students the opportunity to develop the garden more and to build trust to allow them to have more freedom and decision-making power when off site.

Year 9 Forest School at Beech Academy

The Beech Academy Year 9 Forest School curriculum prepares all pupils to be safe and happy outdoors alone or with friends, it develops the knowledge of the natural world, the skills it focuses on will allow students to develop their interests and hobbies in a wide variety of directions in the future.



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Our pupils are studying these topics because it will encourage to develop a range of interests and hobbies outdoors, giving them the confidence to enjoy themselves freely. Building confidence will be core in what we learnt this year, aiming to empower students when offsite and away from adult instruction and supervision.

The topics are studied in this order because learning to risk assess first will allow the students to have more confidence and freedom for the rest of the year. It is also a skill many of our students have struggled to develop, all the way down to knowing when to talk to strangers, how to stop yourself getting lost and how to cross a road appropriately.

This year will build on previous years by allowing the students to demonstrate their growing knowledge of growth cycles and the seasons. We will grow both flowers and vegetables from seed and follow their growth through to the final stage where we will cook and eat them.



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