



## Forest School compared to other outdoor learning experiences

Forest School	Outdoor Learning	Environmental Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child led learning</li> <li>• A distinct ethos and approach which places the child at the heart</li> <li>• A focus on the processes instead of the products</li> <li>• Aims for children to become immersed in activities</li> <li>• Includes spontaneous play</li> <li>• Planning is adapted according to the interests of the individuals</li> <li>• Social learning theories are important</li> <li>• Observation of participants is important</li> <li>• The Forest School leader is seen as a facilitator rather than 'expert'</li> <li>• Forest School leader must hold the Level 3 qualification</li> <li>• Level 3 qualification has outdoor 2 day first aid qualification</li> <li>• Use of woodland tools</li> <li>• Use of fire</li> <li>• Takes place in a woodland setting or an environment that is 'wild enough'</li> <li>• High adult pupil ratios (1:8 or less)</li> <li>• Suitable for a wide range of needs</li> <li>• Links with nurture based approaches and the development of self-concepts</li> <li>• Takes place over longer-term (ideally for a year)</li> <li>• Each session lasts for 2 hours</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Balanced approach between child-initiated and teacher led activities</li> <li>• Learning linked to the curriculum and more in line with classroom based learning</li> <li>• Typical links with science, geography and art education</li> <li>• Aims to support indoor learning on a wider scale</li> <li>• Play is not an important part of the experience.</li> <li>• Based on traditional theories of learning with the leader seen as expert</li> <li>• Can be delivered by all educators – teachers and support staff</li> <li>• No formal qualification</li> <li>• No requirement for first aid</li> <li>• No tools</li> <li>• No fire</li> <li>• Can happen in any outdoor setting</li> <li>• Usually takes place with whole class and adult: pupil ratios more like 1:15</li> <li>• Session length will vary</li> <li>• Aims to get children to engage with nature and the natural environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Usually led by an adult with specific skill sets and knowledge</li> <li>• Aims to get children to have a better understanding of environmental issues, extending to a global scale</li> <li>• Helps participants to develop an appreciation of nature and how to live more sustainably</li> <li>• Includes links to the curriculum (water, plants and soils, geology, climate, waste and recycling, politics etc...)</li> <li>• May include field study education, gardening projects, earth education and city farms</li> <li>• Close links with outdoor learning</li> <li>• Usually led by people with specialist knowledge such as rangers, education officers within specific settings</li> <li>• Usually delivered in an outdoor environment but some aspects delivered indoors</li> <li>• Typically delivered with whole classes and larger groups.</li> </ul>