

A black and white photograph of a forest. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating a hazy, ethereal atmosphere. The trees are tall and thin, with some bare branches in the foreground. The ground is covered in fallen leaves and twigs.

Forest School Pilot Programme at Bramley



What is Forest School?

“An inspirational process that offers children, (young people and adults) regular opportunities to achieve and develop confidence through hands-on learning in a woodland environment”
O'Brien & Murray (2008).

What is the history behind the initiative?

Originally a concept developed in Wisconsin in 1927.

1950s: Introduced in Sweden and Denmark.

1994: Introduced to the UK by Bridgwater College in Somerset and has seen unprecedented growth throughout the UK since.

International curriculums:

- Reggio Emilia, N. Tuscany
- Hi-Scope, USA
- Te Whariki, New Zealand



Forest School Principles

Principle 1: Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit. Planning, adaptation, observations and reviewing are integral elements of Forest School.

Principle 2: Forest School takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.

Principle 3: Forest School aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners

Principle 4: Forest School offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.

Principle 5. Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.

Principle 6. Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning



Why introduce Forest School?

- * Builds independence
- * Curiosity
- * Spatial awareness
- * Social skills
- * Risk management
- * Problem solving
- * Self-discovery
- * Increased self esteem
- * Exploration of senses
- * Motor development
- * Team building
- * Cross- curricular skills
- * Creativity
- * Imagination

Why move the lessons to the forest?

Classroom Culture

- Told the information
- Reading about topics
- Physical distance from others
- Limitations
- The expected
- Intellectual development
- Physical inactivity

Outdoor Classroom Culture

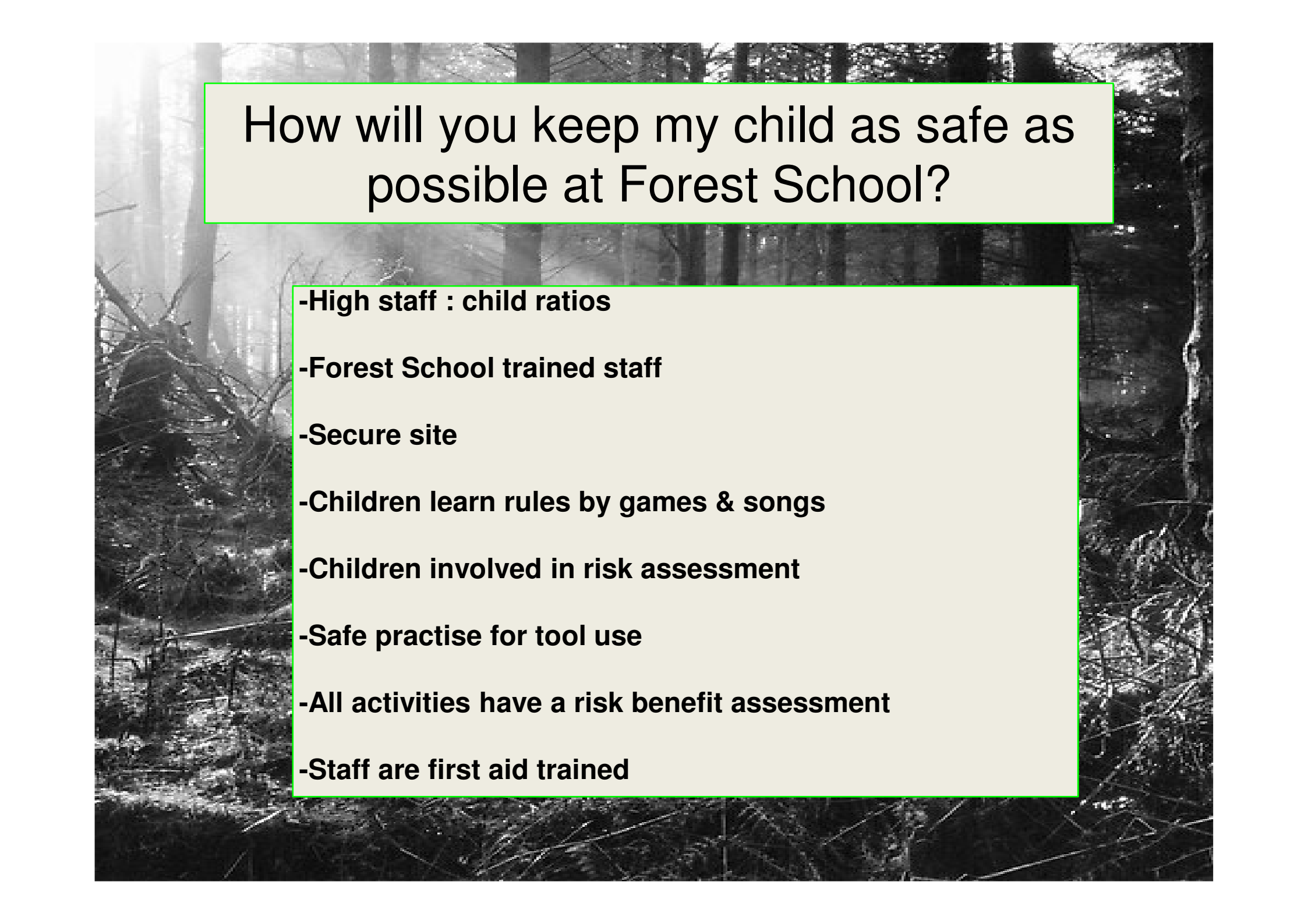
- Discover the information themselves through investigation
- Experiencing topics first hand and relating them to real life situations
- Working in collaboration with others
- Testing one's own limits and learning what is safe
- The unexpected
- Multi- Sensory/ Whole child development
- Physical development

What kind of activities will my children be doing?



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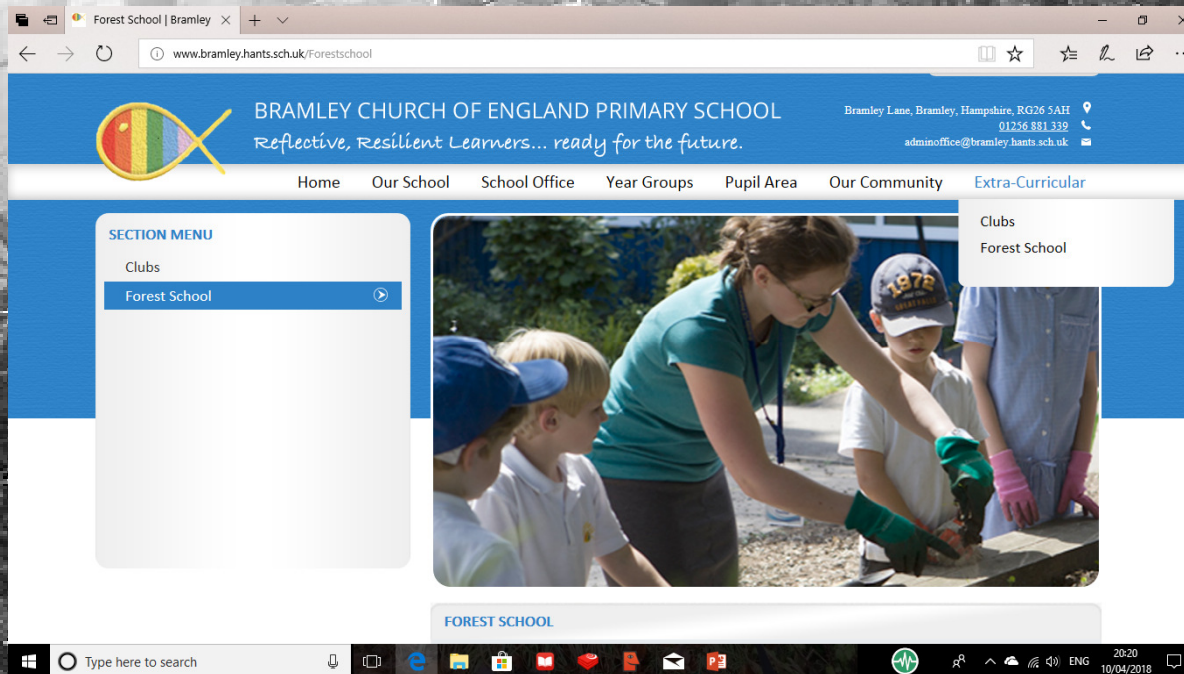




How will you keep my child as safe as possible at Forest School?

- High staff : child ratios**
- Forest School trained staff**
- Secure site**
- Children learn rules by games & songs**
- Children involved in risk assessment**
- Safe practise for tool use**
- All activities have a risk benefit assessment**
- Staff are first aid trained**

Questions



What does my child need to wear?

Winter

- Woolly hat, gloves & snood
- Waterproof trousers and coat
- Long sleeved top and trousers
- Wellington boots/Waking boots & thick socks

Where can I find all of the Forest School documents?

<http://www.bramley.hants.sch.uk/Forestschool>

What about toileting?

- Full use of toilets in school
- Accompanied by a friend of adult

Does the weather prevent Forest School from taking place?

- No! (apart from very high winds, lightning)

Summer

- Sunhat, sun cream
- Waterproof shoes or wellingtons
- Cagoule
- Light Long sleeve top and trousers