Vision Statement

Intent

Our vision at Ringway Primary School is built on the core values of RESPECT; respect, equality, self-belief, perseverance, excellence, creativity and teamwork. It is the aim of our Forest School programme to promote and deliver on these values by providing all pupils with valuable outdoor experiences. By working together in the natural environment, they not only learn to **respect** each other but to **respect** the natural world around them. Pupils are taught the importance of sustainability and respecting wildlife. Sessions in Forest School are child-led, with children choosing and designing their own activities. This allows all children to thrive and contribute to the sessions in a unique way, promoting **equality** between all participants. This child-led nature allows pupils the opportunity to take ownership of their learning, finding their own solutions when faced with a problem and manage risks, becoming resilient learners as a result. With this ownership, they feel proud of their achievements, developing their **self-belief**. It also develops their **perserverence** skills, as they are encouraged to keep trying and not give up, finding ways to solve problems. The sense of achievement when they are successful in this promotes **excellence**. Children their own activities, choose their own resources and plan their own projects. This in turn develop **creativity** and independence. There are many opportunities for **creative** work in Forest School, whether that is through crafts, den building, nature art or writing based on their experiences. There is lots of opportunity for **team-work** in Forest School sessions; pupils have the opportunity to work and problem solve together as equals and often work together in groups to achieve success.

Implementation

All year groups will take part in weekly two-hour Forest School sessions with two qualified Forest School Leaders over the course of a half term. Children will have the opportunity to explore and experience the natural world around them all year around. They go outdoors in all weathers, wearing appropriate clothing. Activities include field studies, sensory activities, bushcraft, arts and craft, team-building games, wildlife conservation, imaginative activities, physical play and construction. All of the above are with the aim of developing their social, emotional and physical skills.

The children are also taught about environmental awareness and sustainability. The pupils are taught to care for and respect our area, taking responsibility to develop and grow, and ensuring it is not harmed by leaving it tidy and only using materials that have fallen from plants and trees.

As the sessions are child led, it is the role of the adults involved to act as a facilitator. They are there to create and facilitate opportunities for learning, allowing participants to take the lead and follow their interests when choosing what to do in their time at Forest School. Facilitators, therefore, take on the role of an observer. They observe the participants in the group to see what their interests are, and plan learning opportunities accordingly.

Impact

Because they are given the freedom over their own learning, pupils will develop in confidence, self-belief and independence throughout the sessions. They will have the opportunity to develop problem solving skills and learn to work collaboratively with others. They will learn to respect others and the world around them. Through working together in team building activities and sharing resources, children develop their communication and social skills, as well as grow bonds between each other. By spending time outdoors, using tools and playing games, children develop their fine and gross motor skills, as well as their general physical stamina.