



Welcome

Cheshire Forest School was established in March 2023 offering high quality Forest School sessions for children in our own, private woodland in the heart of Cheshire countryside.

Our Home Education provision began in September 2024 and has grown in popularity offering a unique alternative to indoor mainstream education.



At Cheshire Forest School, children are fully immersed in an outdoor, natural environment where learning and play go hand in hand.

Nestled in the heart of Cheshire countryside, our private woodland is flanked by fields in which different crops are grown each year. This offers a wonderful learning opportunity as we watch tractors at work, the crops grow and then harvested. Nearby there are fishing lakes and we regularly hear and see flocks of geese as they pass over.

Bursting with nature, the woodland provides the perfect backdrop for our Forest School activities, with wildlife and diverse flora and fauna. As you browse through these pages, envision the endless opportunities that we can offer your child.

From skills-based learning to imaginative play, Cheshire Forest School is a place where every day is an adventure.



Principles



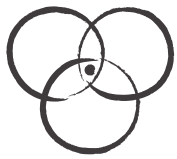
The Long Term Principle

Forest School is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment rather than one off visits. Planning, adapting, observing and reviewing are all integral elements of Forest School.



The Nature Principle

Forest School takes place in woodland environment to support and develop a relationship with the learner and the natural world.



The Holistic Principle

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



The Leadership Principle

Forest School is run by a Forest School Practitioner who continually maintains and develops their professional practice.



The Risk Principle

Forest School offers the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and individual.



The Community Principle

Forest School uses learner-centred processes to create a community for learning and development



Home Education

Our provision is play-based where learning is driven by exploration and the children's own individual interests. There are plenty of opportunities for developing bushcraft skills and we use The Wild Passport to guide this.

Learning experiences at Forest School are closely linked with environmental science and outdoor education principles which are underpinned by a holistic approach. The ethos of Forest School prioritises child-led learning, encouraging children to follow their interests and have autonomy over their experiences.



Ofsted Rating: Expected Standard (March 2026)

Highlights of what they said:

- Children arrive eager to begin their day.
- Staff have high expectations of children's behaviour,
- Leaders have created an inspiring environment for children to explore freely.
- Children delight in sensory experiences, such as hearing the thud the wood makes as it lands on the woodland floor, watching the tractor in the adjacent field and mixing the right consistency of mud for a mud cake.





Environment

Location

Our woodland is extremely private and is surrounded by arable farmland. It offers a peaceful place to play and learn and is teeming with wildlife.

The surrounding area is managed by a RSPB Bird ranger and we are incredibly lucky with some of the birds that we see.

Facilities

Over the campfire circle we have a huge parachute which offers shelter when we are cooking and using the fire.

Additionally, we have an 'Activity Cabin' which has several uses. It is the place where we hang our coats and bags. It has beanbags with books and games and a table with benches which we use for activities and lunch.

There is a composting toilet and handwashing station.

Natural Spaces

Our set up is inspired by natural and loose parts play which are integrated into the Forest School landscape.

These include:

- Mud Kitchen
- Swings and Hammocks
- Balancing lines
- Tool area
- Campfire Circle
- Den building Spaces

These encourage physical activity, imaginative play and opportunities for mindfulness. Additionally we develop other areas based on the interests of the children in the group.

The surrounding countryside also offers us opportunities for foraging, nature walks and developing an understanding of how arable farming is done.





Safety

Site Safety:

The site is inspected daily including fencing, trees, and hazards (e.g. litter, glass, or fallen branches).

Supervision of children:

Children are supervised as they play. We do regular headcounts and the children learn our one and two whistle system. One whistle is to stop play and listen to instructions. Two loud whistles requires the children to return to basecamp immediately.

Weather monitoring:

Sessions may be shortened or cancelled in extreme weather (see Adverse Weather Policy).

Risk assessments:

All activities, tools, and campfires are covered by written risk assessments and these are reviewed regularly.





Fees

April 2026

Our pricing will be reviewed twice a year in September and March.

Full day 9.30am-2.30pm £35

Sibling discount of 10% for the second child

Working parent families can pay us through tax free childcare for 20% off fees and families on universal credit can claim back 85% of their childcare costs with our invoices. (If you require an invoice and receipt, please let us know on your application form)

Places are currently paid in blocks of 6 week but we are in the process of setting up a monthly payment to spread payment across the year.





Applying for a place

- 1 Parents submit an application form.
- 2 Prospective families are invited to visit to get acquainted with the Forest School environment and educational approach.
- 3 Parents pay a deposit and complete admissions forms and parent contract to secure a place.
- 4 A start date is to be agreed and settling in sessions can be arranged if needed



Home Ed sessions run on a Tuesday 9.30am-2.30pm

We follow the Cheshire West term dates and these are shared on an annual basis

Email us for our admissions forms: cheshireforestschool@gmail.com

Or if you have any further questions please contact:

Caroline Rogers

Manager and Director

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Clothing and Kit

What to wear:

- Base Layers - thermal long sleeve top and leggings
- Warm trousers - fleece lined or joggers
- Long sleeved top
- Warm jumper - wool or fleece
- Two pairs of socks - cotton under wool or thermal
- Sturdy Boots or muck boots (wellingtons tend not to retain the heat)
- Waterproof coat and trousers



Winter months

- Fleece lined puddle suit or two piece
- Waterproof gloves
- Warm hat



What to bring:

- A ruckack containing a change of clothes
- Lunch
- Drink

