

CREATE Federation of Schools

Forest School Progression Map: Skills & Knowledge

Taddington, Peak Dale, and Dove Holes Primary Schools

Ethos & Core Pillars

Outdoor learning at the CREATE Federation is woven through the curriculum to create resilient, inquisitive minds through real-life experiences. Our curriculum is built on three pillars:

- **Diversity (Curriculum & Nature):** Experiencing seasonal changes throughout the year and weaving outdoor learning through all curriculum areas.
- **Enquiry (Mindset):** Promoting decision-making through risky play and driving pupil-led learning forward.
- **Legacy (Stewardship):** Gaining respect for the natural world to lead the way toward a greener future.

Boundaries, Risk Taking & Safety

Phase	Skills & Application
EYFS	Listen carefully to boundaries; stay within them with adult support.
KS1	State rules of the fire circle; identify boundaries and stay within them under supervision.
LKS2	Explain boundaries; manage risks while travelling safely along rough ground; support peers with safety.
UKS2	Remain within boundaries without adult support; perform simple risk assessments; lead decisions on rules.

Shelter Building

Phase	Progression of Construction
EYFS	Help build a shelter (dens) with a small group and adults.
KS1	Help build a tepee; use a mallet safely with supervision; build small-scale shelters for a stimulus.
LKS2	Use variety of materials for mini-shelters (tripod method); secure tent pegs independently; tie simple knots.
UKS2	Independently tie clove hitch, reef knots, and “round turn two half hitches”; complete shelter challenges.

Using Tools & Equipment

Phase	Tools Used	Safety Awareness
EYFS	Introductory play equipment.	Listen to safety rules (e.g., sitting in a "bubble").
KS1	Spades, trowels, peelers, mallets.	Use basic tools safely with adult support.
LKS2	Peelers (strip wood), hand/palm drills, secateurs, loppers.	Use tools confidently under supervision; begin independent use.
UKS2	Whittling knives, bow saws.	Confidently instruct others on safety; demonstrate safe storage.

Fire Circle Skills

Phase	Skills	Knowledge
EYFS	Be safe around a campfire.	Identify the heat source.
KS1	Toast a marshmallow; make sparks with a fire steel (with support).	Understand the basic importance of fire safety.
LKS2	Cook hotdogs/smores; light cotton wool with a fire steel independently.	Help build a campfire with adult supervision.
UKS2	Follow recipes (e.g. damper bread); prepare and light fire with supervision.	Identify King Alfred's cake as a natural firefighter.

Nature & Environment (Stewardship)

Phase	Skills	Knowledge
EYFS	Find and name minibeasts.	Use senses on a nature walk.
KS1	Identify woodland habitats.	Understand life cycles (frogs, plants) and seasonal changes.
LKS2	Use ID charts for flora and fauna.	Recognize pollution indicators; make and follow trails.
UKS2	Identify common trees; use compass points.	Maintain trees/shrubs; discuss how to encourage wildlife.

Impact: The Taddington Forest Leader

By the end of their journey, pupils will demonstrate:

- **Resilience:** The ability to manage risks and learn from failure in a natural setting.
- **Leadership:** The confidence to lead peers in shelter construction and fire management.
- **Environmental Fluency:** A deep respect for the local ecosystem and the skills to protect it.