

Introduction to Woodland Classroom at Downview

Purpose of study

Outdoor learning is key in promoting good mental health and emotional wellbeing as well as being an inspiring place to learn. Children thrive in interesting environments in which their curiosity can be ignited and explored. The woodland classroom offers a space which can be utilised in a variety of ways to meet the needs of all pupils, encouraging creative thinking, risk taking and resilience. Children and staff find that the use of the outdoor space reduces anxiety, improves behaviour and instils confidence. Making frequent use of the woodland classroom, as an addition to other outdoor provisions, promotes good health and the development of the whole child.

Aims

The broad and balanced curriculum at Downview Primary school seeks to provide outdoor learning opportunities which:

- Reduces anxiety
- Promotes 'can do', 'have a go' attitude
- Reduces perceived scope for error
- Improves co-operation
- Improves behaviour
- Improves confidence



Attainment targets

As a whole-school approach, children will develop higher order thinking skills as they move through the Key Stages. By the end of their journey at Downview, children are expected to be using higher order thinking skills as described in 'Bloom's taxonomy of higher order thinking skills', at a level appropriate for their ability.