



Hartlebury Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Primary School

Forest School

Play Policy

We value the importance for all children to have time to explore, discover and play at their own pace and in their own way.

Play is fundamental to a child's life and contributes to children's health, wellbeing and happiness as well as harbouring a spirit of curiosity and a love of learning. Forest School offers a valuable opportunity to all children, particularly vital where such chances are restricted day to day. Most importantly, playing contributes to children's ability to thrive and survive.

Our Forest School sessions are largely child-led and designed to meet the needs of individuals to ensure that children grow in self-confidence, as well as developing their physical, emotional, cognitive and social skills. We recognise that children will naturally create and seek out challenging situations; while making the most of their play some children may have accidents, get dirty/wet or upset. We recognise that any potential risk of harm to children needs to be balanced with the potential for good that may come from their taking part in a particular form of play. Play opportunities will be managed by qualified staff and activities subject to a risk assessment.

We believe that adult's attitude towards, and understanding of, children's play behaviour will have a significant effect on the quality of the play opportunities offered within our daily practice. We will therefore seek out training opportunities and support research among its staff so that they are confident to facilitate children's freely chosen, self-directed play.

Signed:

On behalf of: