

# Alternative Provision

for upper  
KS2 pupils

Forest School sessions at  
**Dibbinsdale  
Nature Reserve**

Hands-on sessions at  
**Woodchurch High  
School Farm**



The **Explore**  
**More Project**



**WOODCHURCH HIGH SCHOOL**  
A Church of England Academy



**THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND**  
Diocese of Chester

# About **Explore More**

## Alternative Provision



Explore More is an Alternative Provision providing a **nurturing and inspirational environment** for upper KS2 pupils who have been identified as **emotionally vulnerable**, **lacking in confidence**, or with **low self esteem** that is impacting on their educational outcomes.



### Explore More

Explore More consists of Forest School sessions at Dibbinsdale Nature Reserve, and hands-on sessions at the Woodchurch High School Farm.



### Holistic development

Forest School is a well established outdoor activity provision for the holistic development of people of all ages and its ethos forms the basis of Explore More.



### Unique offer

Combined with the farming experience at Woodchurch High School this presents a unique and powerful offer.



### Quality assured

The project is delivered by trained staff from Woodchurch High School, and as such will be quality assured through the school's monitoring systems.



### Change of environment

Explore More offers an opportunity for pupils to experience a change of environment with a focus on personal, emotional, and social development.



### Bespoke

We use a variety of activities to build a bespoke programme for children according to their identified needs.

Whilst our approach is centred around the Forest School ethos, it also incorporates a number of other ideas to further enrich the child's experience.

### We aim to:



Reduce anxiety



Improve emotional literacy



Build confidence



Increase self esteem



Develop communication skills



Engage and excite pupils to learn



### Improve the child's social capacity

This should in turn improve the child's social capacity and enable them to **engage more positively in learning** when in their mainstream setting. Explore More is not a woodland classroom, however many of our activities relate to the National Curriculum for KS2 so will either **complement their in school lessons** directly, or support pupils such that their **classroom performance is enhanced**.

## What activities will take place?



### Varied activities

The activities offered by Explore More are almost as varied as the children that participate in the programme and provide a multitude of learning opportunities.



### Supported risks

A key principle of any Forest School is that it offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves, which is reflected in some of the activities we offer.



### Safe environment

Safety is of course of paramount importance, so all of our activities will be delivered by appropriately qualified and experienced staff, and are fully risk assessed with mitigating actions taken to provide the safest possible environment.

These activities may include things such as:

- |  |   |                |
|--|---|----------------|
| ✓ Shelter/ den building                | ✓ Arts and crafts using natural materials | ✓ Animal care  |
| ✓ Wide games (Hide n' Seek, Eagle Eye) | ✓ Campfire cooking                        | ✓ Horticulture |
| ✓ Rope Swings                          | ✓ Fire building and firewood preparation  | ✓ Pond dipping |
| ✓ Plant and animal identification      | ✓ Bushcraft skills                        |                |

## Where and when will this happen?



### Dibbinsdale Nature Reserve

Explore More takes place across two sites; our Forest School sessions take place at Dibbinsdale Nature Reserve in Bromborough. This council owned woodland has a dedicated Forest School area and is home to a wide variety of trees, plants, animals, a pond, as well as a small clearings offering a multitude of opportunities to engage with and learn about the natural world. There is a large walled garden that allows an increased degree of security, as well as toilets and an indoor space.



### Woodchurch High School Farm

We also use our own award winning school farm, which is at the main Woodchurch High School site. The farm features Alpacas, Pygmy Goats, Sheep, Rabbits, Tortoises and many more animals as well as horticultural opportunities for your pupils to learn about and engage with.



Our current cost is **£55/pupil per day**. We aim to keep our costs reasonable, whilst maintaining the high quality service you expect for your pupils.



Currently we are able to offer this exciting opportunity on either Tuesdays or Thursdays, with a course running for 10 weeks

# Who will deliver it?



## Qualified staff

All staff are Woodchurch High School employees therefore, DBS cleared and safely recruited. The project lead is Forest School Association qualified to level 3 Forest School Practitioner, which includes appropriate first aid qualifications for working with children in the outdoors. Assistant staff are all appropriately trained and qualified for the project.



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# The Forest School Ethos

Forest School operates using six key principles:

Forest School is a long-term process of regular sessions, rather than one-off or infrequent visits. The cycle of planning, observation, adaptation and review links each session and allows for a truly custom program for you pupils.

Forest School takes place in a natural or woodland environment to support the development of a lifelong relationship between the learner and the natural world.

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

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

Forest School is run by qualified Forest School practitioners, who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice.

Forest School uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for being, development and learning.