

# Forest School at Brynllwarch

## Learning Beyond the Classroom

Forest School is a well-established and valued part of life at Brynllwarch. It offers our learners the opportunity to take their learning outdoors, away from the traditional classroom environment which many of our pupils have historically found challenging. Set within our own natural woodland area on the school grounds, Forest School provides a calm, engaging, and flexible space where children can learn in a way that suits them.



Sessions are led by fully trained staff who follow the core principles of Forest School practice, ensuring activities are safe, purposeful, and learner centred. The woodland site is cared for collaboratively by staff and learners, helping children develop a sense of responsibility, ownership, and pride in their environment.



## What Is Forest School?

Forest School is a long-term, child-led approach to learning that takes place through regular sessions throughout the year, in all seasons. At Brynllwarch, Forest School supports holistic development through play, exploration, and supported risk-taking, allowing learners to build confidence, resilience, and independence at their own pace.

Activities may include:

- Cooking on the fire
- Crafting using natural materials
- Foraging and exploring the woodland
- Digging, den building, and tool use
- Imaginative and sensory play



These hands-on experiences support physical development, communication skills, emotional wellbeing, and problem-solving.

## Supporting Our Learners

Forest School at Brynllwarch is particularly beneficial for our neurodiverse learners, including those with Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC). Many of our pupils experience sensory input differently and benefit from learning in a natural, low-pressure environment. The woodland setting provides rich sensory experiences while allowing children the space and time they need to self-regulate and feel safe.

Our learner-led approach encourages children to follow their interests, make choices, and develop positive relationships with peers and adults. This supports the development of key life skills such as cooperation, perseverance, communication, and emotional regulation.



## Our Aims

Forest School at Brynllwarch is guided by the Forest School Association values and principles. Through our programme, we aim to:

- Offer a long-term process of regular Forest School sessions that support sustained development over time
- Promote a learner-led approach, encouraging curiosity, choice, and ownership of learning
- Provide opportunities for supported risk-taking to build confidence, resilience, and independence
- Foster holistic development, supporting physical, social, emotional, cognitive, and communication skills
- Develop a strong connection to the natural world, nurturing respect for the environment and a sense of responsibility
- Create a safe, inclusive, and nurturing environment that supports wellbeing, self-regulation, and positive relationships

By operating year-round and focusing on the needs of each individual learner, Forest School plays an important role in supporting our pupils' overall wellbeing and readiness for learning.

