

## Forest School

### Intent

At Mount Tamar School, Forest School provides students with opportunities to learn, develop and thrive through a wide range of outdoor and woodland-based experiences. Through learner-led activities, students build self-esteem, confidence, independence and resilience while developing a deeper understanding of the natural world. Our bespoke Forest School Educational Pathways (MTLOCC) qualifications support progression through increasingly environmentally focused activities, helping students appreciate, respect and protect the environments around them. We follow the core Forest School ethos of child-centred learning, purposeful play and supported risk-taking, enabling students to develop at their own pace.

### Implementation

Forest School is delivered through practical, hands-on learning across a variety of outdoor environments, including our on-site woodland area. Students engage in a wide range of interactive activities designed to develop personal, social and environmental skills through real-life experiences.

The curriculum is structured around six bespoke in-house Forest School qualifications (MTLOCC), carefully sequenced to meet the needs of primary-aged learners. Through these pathways, students develop their understanding of the natural world, learn new practical skills and gain increasing independence.

Students explore local woodland, coastal and moorland environments, learning about the plants, wildlife and ecosystems found within them. They develop an understanding of how humans impact the environment and the importance of conservation and sustainability.

### Impact

Forest School develops confident, resilient and independent learners who can work collaboratively, solve problems and manage appropriate levels of risk. Students gain greater confidence in outdoor environments and develop a lasting appreciation for nature and the benefits it brings to wellbeing.

By engaging with a range of natural habitats, learners deepen their understanding of local wildlife, environmental responsibility and sustainability. They leave with the knowledge, skills and confidence to enjoy, respect and protect the natural world while applying the resilience and independence developed through Forest School to wider aspects of their education and everyday lives.