Heart of the Forest School Curriculum

Our school curriculum aims to ensure breadth and depth in teaching and learning through a progressive educational journey that is bold, brave and prepares our pupils for life beyond school. Our school provision is personalised through identification of pupil needs and shared outcomes translated from the EHCP. At the very core of our curriculum offer is the intention to nurture each pupil’s sense of identity and belonging within the school and wider community, through inclusive practice, celebration of successes and an emphasis upon developing independence wherever possible alongside an effective communication system.

Our curriculum intention is implemented through three provision pathways; pre-formal, semi-formal and formal. Each pathway is progressive, yet implementation allows for a matrix approach to learning which is often non-linear, enabling teaching and learning across more than one pathway. All steps to success are identified and recognised through our assessment system SOLAR which records and evidences teaching and learning impact, enabling aspirational target setting and identification of interventions.

The provision pathways include Focussed Provision, a relevant Therapeutic Curriculum, and enrichment opportunities through an Extended and Accredited Curriculum where appropriate. Accreditation is studied progressively at KS4 to KS5 at Entry Level to Level 1.

Specialist Focussed Provision is delivered across 14 class groups within the morning sessions. Each Focus Group follows the same provision pathway. Heart of the Forest follows a programme of themes and values which translate across the curriculum and are taught within 11 generic ability class groups during the afternoons. All pupils are placed within an appropriate chronological age group. Our class groups run from Early Years; Foundation Stage and KS1, to KS2 in Primary, KS3 & KS4 in Secondary and KS5 in Further Education. Wherever possible we aim to engage with our wider community through visits, established links & work related learning. Learning outside of the classroom is recognised as an essential element of our teaching and learning approach to ensure real-life experience embed skills and knowledge.