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**Bracken
Hill**

S C H O O L

To be reviewed July 2026

Bracken Hill School

Forest School Handbook

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What is Forest School

Forest School is a special way for children to learn and grow by spending time outdoors. This is a child led opportunity for children to play, explore, and try new things without worrying about making mistakes.

By doing this, children become more confident and feel good about themselves. They learn to solve problems, work together and understand the world around them. Forest School helps children to build their self-worth and be healthy, happy and ready to take on new challenges.

The Forest School Team



Mrs Brown - Assistant Head Teacher at Brackenhill and qualified Level 3 Forest



Mrs Witts - Teaching Assistant at Brackenhill and qualified Level 3 Forest school leader.

Location

Forest school takes place at Robin Hoods Activity Centre (<http://robinhoodactivitycentre.com>) and is a piece of woodland that is owned and maintained by Mansfield and District Scouts and used not only as a scout camp but also a Forest School teacher training area.



Robin Hood Activity Centre
Ricket Lane, Blidworth, Nottinghamshire, NG21 ONF

Risk Management

We believe children learn to stay safe by trying new things. Forest School gives children the chance to do exciting, unpredictable things, like climbing trees or balancing on logs. This helps them learn to adapt to risk taking and overcome fears.

Following the Forest School ethos, we encourage children to work together and support each other as they try new things. By seeing their friends be brave, children are more likely to try something new too. This builds confidence and a sense of achievement.

Our job is to make sure that the children in our care are safe and feel safe while they are exploring. We carefully assess both the area and planned activities for level of risk so we can manage it effectively and support the children in their learning journeys. This way, the children can have fun taking risks and learning without getting hurt.

Staffing

The forest school leads will be supported by some or all of the class teams of the children going. All adults are members of staff at Brackenhill School.

First Aid

With the safety of our children being of the most utmost importance, both forest school leaders have completed a two-day outdoor First Aid course as well as a paediatric First Aid course. Other supporting members of staff have training in specific areas to support their class children's needs.

Weather

In Forest School sessions, we like to experience all weathers. So long as it is deemed safe, we will carry on.

Our Forest School leaders are responsible for checking the weather forecast and will do so before each session.

It is really important that the children are dressed appropriately for all weathers to ensure that they are comfortable, dry, warm and ready for adventure!

As a school, we request that parents provide their children with the most appropriate clothing. Please see a list of recommendations below.

Cold and Wet Weather	Hot Weather
Warm and waterproof coat	Waterproof jacket (cagoul / pack a mac)
Layers - long sleeved tops / jumpers	Long trousers / leggings
Waterproof trousers	Walking boots / trainers
Long trousers / leggings	Sunhat
Hat, scarf, gloves	Sunscreen
Walking boots / wellies	Water bottle

Toilets and Hygiene

If a child needs the toilet whilst in the woods, there is a flushing toilet on site alongside hand washing facilities.

Transport

The children are transported to Forest school by the school's minibuses.

Equal opportunities

All children will be given the opportunity to engage, participate and thrive in Forest School sessions and activities, regardless of their abilities, gender or special educational needs. Each Forest School session is carefully planned by the Forest School leader, looking at initial observations and taking into consideration every child's needs and abilities.

