

Are WOODS Sessions dirty?

Do children get dirty at WOODS sessions? Yes! In fact, we encourage it. Getting outdoors and getting messy go hand-in-hand. Many children and young people miss out on valuable experiential learning because they are overly concerned with getting dirty or spoiling their clothes. You can help them overcome this by ensuring they wear old clothes that they don't have to worry about.

As our 'Outdoor' foundation ensures the programme runs in all weather conditions (unless deemed unsafe by the practitioner), it is vital to send your child in appropriate clothing. This includes layers and waterproof trousers in winter, and sun hats in summer. Please remember that even when it's hot, sturdy footwear and lightweight clothing that protects limbs from scratches, stings, and ticks will be far more appropriate than sandals and summer dresses, ensuring your child is comfortable and safe. The messier they get, the more fun they're having!



Kit List

On the days that your child has a WOODS Session please send them to school in their WOODS clothes, with some spare clothes in a separate bag. This way if they get wet they will have a set of warm dry clothes on hand. What they wear for WOODS Sessions will depend on the season. Please see below for guidance on this:

Winter:

- Vest or T-shirt;
- Long-sleeved top;
- Jumper;
- Trousers;
- Waterproof coat;
- Waterproof trousers (not essential);
- Socks;
- Wellies or waterproof boots;
- Hat, gloves and scarf.

Summer:

- Lightweight, long-sleeved top or t-shirt;
- Lightweight, long trousers; (these are better than shorts as they protect them when kneeling and using tools)
- Socks;
- Trainers, fully enclosed shoes, wellies or waterproof boots;
- Sunhat;
- Suncream

They will also require their usual school items such as water bottle and book bag etc. as they will have the rest of the day in school as usual.

If you have any questions please talk to Mr Drew or email

tdrew@willowfarm.notts.sch.uk



**Willow Farm
Primary School**

The WOODS Programme

Information
Leaflet

What is The WOODS Programme?

This exciting initiative is all about getting our children outdoors, no matter the weather, for hands-on, fun-filled learning. The name WOODS stands for **Weekly Outdoor Opportunities for Discovery and Skills**. Our programme is built on a clear ethos and six core foundations, which we call **GROWTH**. These foundations are that everything we do is **Guided** by a competent adult, delivered in **Regular** timetabled sessions, **Outdoors** in diverse settings, **Well-being** focused, **Tailored** to the child, and is **Hands-on**. These principles ensure every session is delivered to a high standard, with a strong emphasis on safety and managed risk. The sessions seamlessly integrate with EYFS, the National Curriculum and our school's PRIDE Values, ensuring every child's experience is meaningful and purposeful. Our experienced practitioners deliver a curriculum of sequenced learning, and its effectiveness is continually monitored and evaluated to ensure the best possible impact. We're excited for your child to get muddy, have a fantastic time, and grow with us in the great outdoors, developing skills for life.



The WOODS Programme

Who is the WOODS Programme for?

The WOODS Programme is an inclusive initiative designed for all pupils, from our youngest 'Little Willow Wildlings' through to our oldest 'Willow Wayfinders'. Our curriculum is tailored to every learner's needs, making it particularly valuable for children who thrive in a different environment. It's a journey of discovery and confidence-building in the great outdoors.

Why do we do WOODS Sessions?

We believe that the best learning happens when children are fully engaged. That's why The WOODS Programme provides Weekly Outdoor Opportunities for Discovery and Skills. Our sessions are rooted in the children's choices and curiosity. Activities range from den building and woodcraft to bug hunts and imaginative games.

Beyond the obvious benefits of improved physical health, children are encouraged to learn by doing. This develops vital skills like problem-solving, perseverance, and initiative. They learn to work as a team, support their friends, and cope with challenges—crucial emotional skills for life. This hands-on approach builds a sense of pride and confidence, directly supporting our school's core PRIDE Values and ensuring every child has the chance to learn and thrive in the great outdoors.



When are WOODS Sessions?

WOODS Sessions will occur every week on Mondays & Tuesdays. You will receive exact dates for when your child will be attending in a separate communication.

Is there risk at WOODS Sessions?

Yes, there is, but we believe that experiencing managed risk is a vital part of learning. Our programme is designed to ensure that children have the opportunity to make their own decisions and develop a healthy respect for the world around them within a safe and controlled environment.

Safety is our top priority. All sessions are led by competent practitioners who carry out comprehensive risk-benefit assessments, balancing any potential risks against the significant learning and developmental benefits. We also use continuous dynamic risk assessments during every session. Your children will learn to use real tools, such as penknives and saws, but only after receiving detailed training from qualified staff. Our strict Tool Use Policy teaches them how to handle tools properly, maintain a safe working distance, and always show respect for the equipment. Furthermore, children are actively involved in assessing risks themselves, which fosters critical thinking and a sense of responsibility. With robust daily safety checks and clear emergency procedures in place, we empower children to learn safely and confidently.

