**Primary Premium and School Sports Premium Funding**

**Good Practice Case Study**

**Project:** **Forest Schools Outdoor Learning Project**

**Context:**

The school is based on the outskirts of Bedford and has good access to woodland and open fields, which was identified as having potential for enriching academic and physical learning.

The school lacked the expertise or equipment to make the most of the opportunities and so used some of its Primary Premium funding to establish a ‘Forest Schools’ outdoor learning project. This has introduced a completely new element of physical activity into the school PE, as well as academic, curriculum.

**Actions:**

The school sent a teaching assistant to do the level 3 Forest Schools Training course. She was then able to work with the teaching staff to create a scheme of work for each year group which embraced the Forest Schools concept and which linked into school curriculum topics and cross-mapped with the national curriculum.

The Forest Schools programme was incorporated into the timetable to allow half of each year group to receive one session per week, every two weeks. This also allowed the class teacher to work with the other half of the class during this period on focused learning in core subjects.

The school has had to invest in an external physical activity specialist to support the teaching assistant in delivering the Forest School sessions both to ensure correct behavior management and so that she has supported professional development.

**Impact:**

The impact has been that all pupils are getting an additional hour and a half of physical activity/education every two weeks in a way that they can easily sustain outside school time by using their natural environments.

It has also introduced children to a completely different type of activity with very different dynamics to the standard PE curriculum which both enriches learning and is more inclusive for children with different interests and skill levels. The programme has enriched the whole school curriculum and allowed some children who did not engage positively with traditional PE to access physical education in a different way.

**Sustainability:**

The Forest Schools programme has become a whole-school concept and is a core part of the school life, promoting outdoor activity and adventure and encouraging pupils and staff to engage with the outdoors.

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| The school is looking at replacing the external physical activity instructor with a permanent staff member to support the Forest School leader. |
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