



Battle Abbey School
Founded 1912



Battle Abbey School

Outdoor Learning Incorporating Forest and Beach School

Outdoor School aims to develop:

- Self awareness
- Self regulation
- Intrinsic motivation
- Empathy
- Good social communication skills
- Independence
- A positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence

What do we do?

Each session combines woodland or beach activities with team building games and skills. All instructions are given verbally, visually and using practical demonstration.

We have fully qualified beach and forest school practitioner, supported by fully qualified teachers and first aid professionals.

We use a holistic approach to develop resilience, independence and creativity. We encourage and offer learners to take risks and develop confidence.

Activities are broken down into small achievable steps. Children discover abilities that they have never been able to demonstrate before. We do a detailed health and safety as well as risk assessment check.

We use a variety of tools such as Kelly Kettles, Flint and Stone and Bow Saws, Wood Pairing and Fire Bowls, along with natural resources such as streams, ponds, sea and mud for a hands on learning approach.

We follow the Forest School ethos based on respect for others and the will to test their curiosity in the world around them.

We are extremely lucky as we utilise many of the local woods, national trust locations and beaches around or school sites, which is over 120 acres. This allows children a wealth of exploring and investigating different landscapes throughout the year.



What is Forest School?

Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning.

The philosophy of Forest School is to encourage and inspire children of any age through positive outdoor experiences.

By participating in engaging, motivating and achievable tasks in a woodland environment each child has an opportunity to develop new emotional and social skills.

Forest School has been proven to be beneficial to children of all ages. Children learn how to handle risks, and more importantly, to use their own initiative to solve problems and co-operate with others. They develop their self-esteem, motivation, confidence, independence and team work skills. In particular, children who visit the same woodland on a regular basis and have the opportunity to learn about the natural environment, respect it, care for it and develop a lasting love of nature.

With access to grounds at both the Prep and Senior School sites (totalling some 133 acres) no two sessions are the same.

Children will on occasion use full sized tools, but will always play, learn boundaries of behaviour and learn to listen. We encourage the children to get messy and creative.



What is Beach School?

Parents will tell you that going to the beach prompts children to explore, create and learn and many children simply feel at home in the freedom the beach offers.

We are fortunate to have a beach within walking distance from our Prep and Nursery Schools in Bexhill and make use of it regularly as a natural learning resource for our pupils.

Through Beach School children become aware of the coastal environment and develop a greater awareness of marine life and plants, along with a better understanding of beach safety.

A change in surroundings alone can greatly help even the most shy child to participate with friends in fun activities.

All Prep School year groups have the opportunity to attend Beach School. They take part in many different activities: play games, create sculptures and pictures, and discover nautical flora and fauna. The outdoor environment stimulates their physical health and emotional and spiritual well-being.

At Battle Abbey Prep School we encourage the children to look after the oceans and to be responsible for taking their own rubbish home.

Beach School offers the children amazing opportunities to connect with nature; rock pool dipping and discovery, pebbles, sand water and mud plus a varied selection of habitats for wild animals.



The Abbey Grounds

The Prep School takes full advantage of its access to the Abbey estates and grounds, and visit all year round to observe the seasons, take part in activities and enjoy the wealth of different locations on offer. No two sessions are the same!

In addition to the magnificent 11th century ruins there are more modern buildings to explore, as well as a lake, open fields, woods and hedgerows, access to local streams for stream walking and some five acres of ancient woodland (featuring bluebell and wood anemonies) just a walk away.

The opportunity to reflect in ancient ruins cannot be underestimated and its amazing to see the effect the ruins have on even the youngest and most excitable children. They quickly learn to respect the history of the site as well as see it as a fantastic place for creative play.





Battle Town Council

Mansers Shaw

This area of woodland has been acquired by
Battle Town Council
and is managed as a nature conservation area

Please

- Keep dogs under control
- Keep to the footpaths
- Take your litter home
- Do not pick wild flowers

Enquiries: 01424 777

Risk

"All real children's play involves an element of risk, and the more real play children are allowed the better they become at analysing and managing those risks. If, on the other hand, adults try to eliminate risk from their lives they're likely to grow up either unduly reckless or hopelessly timid."

Sue Palmer (Toxic Childhood 2006)



Outdoor learning enables free play and independent adventure. It recognises the importance of risk taking and promotes opportunities for children to take managed risks or adapt their play activities.

The opportunity to climb, move tree trunks and run on rough terrain provides endless physical and emotional challenges for children.



'We believe that young people develop most when they are **'learning by doing'**, when they are given **responsibility**, work in teams, take **acceptable risks** and think for themselves.'



Battle Abbey School
www.battleabbeyschool.com