



# WEST PARTNERSHIP PRIMARY CURRICULUM PROGRAMME

Newarthill Primary School, North  
Lanarkshire



## Self Evaluation

Practitioners wanted to increase feelings of school supportiveness amongst a target group of pupils. This aligned to Children's Rights policies and NIF/HGIOS priorities.



## Inquiry Question

Can engagement in Forest Schools Fundamentals sessions improve the sense of school supportiveness in a target group of pupils?



## Intervention

School leaders and practitioners engaged in professional learning. The schools principal teachers were trained in Forest Schools Fundamentals and then implemented a 10 week intervention with 6 pupils. Each session was adaptive with pupils having the ability to personalise and choose parts of the session. Observations on how the pupils engaged with the activities were made and recorded by the principal teachers.



## Evidence and Impact

Attendance at each session was recorded and compared to overall school attendance. Some pupils had higher levels of school attendance on days when the Forest Schools days were planned. The Sense of School Supportiveness survey was also used before and after the intervention. The tool produced a score between 1 and 5 (low to high) based on 14 different questions. The target group baseline score was 2.8, which increased to 3.6 after the intervention. All pupils saw their score increase after the intervention.



## Key Reflections

This collaborative action research project found that a sense of school supportiveness can be enhanced via an outdoor learning intervention. Key themes from qualitative data showed that the intervention improved a sense of belonging, increased a sense of self, gave an opportunity to build new friendships and generated positive attitudes towards new learning experiences.

For more information on the Primary Curriculum Programme, scan the QR code below.

