

The UK Forest School movement...

A revolution in Environmental Education
or just another brand?

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What is Forest School?



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*It is **not**:*

- A badge that schools can collect
- The same as any other sort of outdoor education
- Always in a forest
- All about tools and fire.
- Led by unqualified leaders

Key Principles



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1. It is a long-term process of frequent and regular sessions in a woodland or natural environment, rather than a one-off visit





2. It takes place in a woodland or natural wooded environment to support the development of a relationship between the learner and the natural world.





3. It aims to promote the holistic development of all those involved, fostering resilient, confident, independent and creative learners





4. It offers learners the opportunity to take supported risks appropriate to the environment and to themselves.





5. It is run by qualified Forest School practitioners who continuously maintain and develop their professional practice





6. It uses a range of learner-centred processes to create a community for development and learning

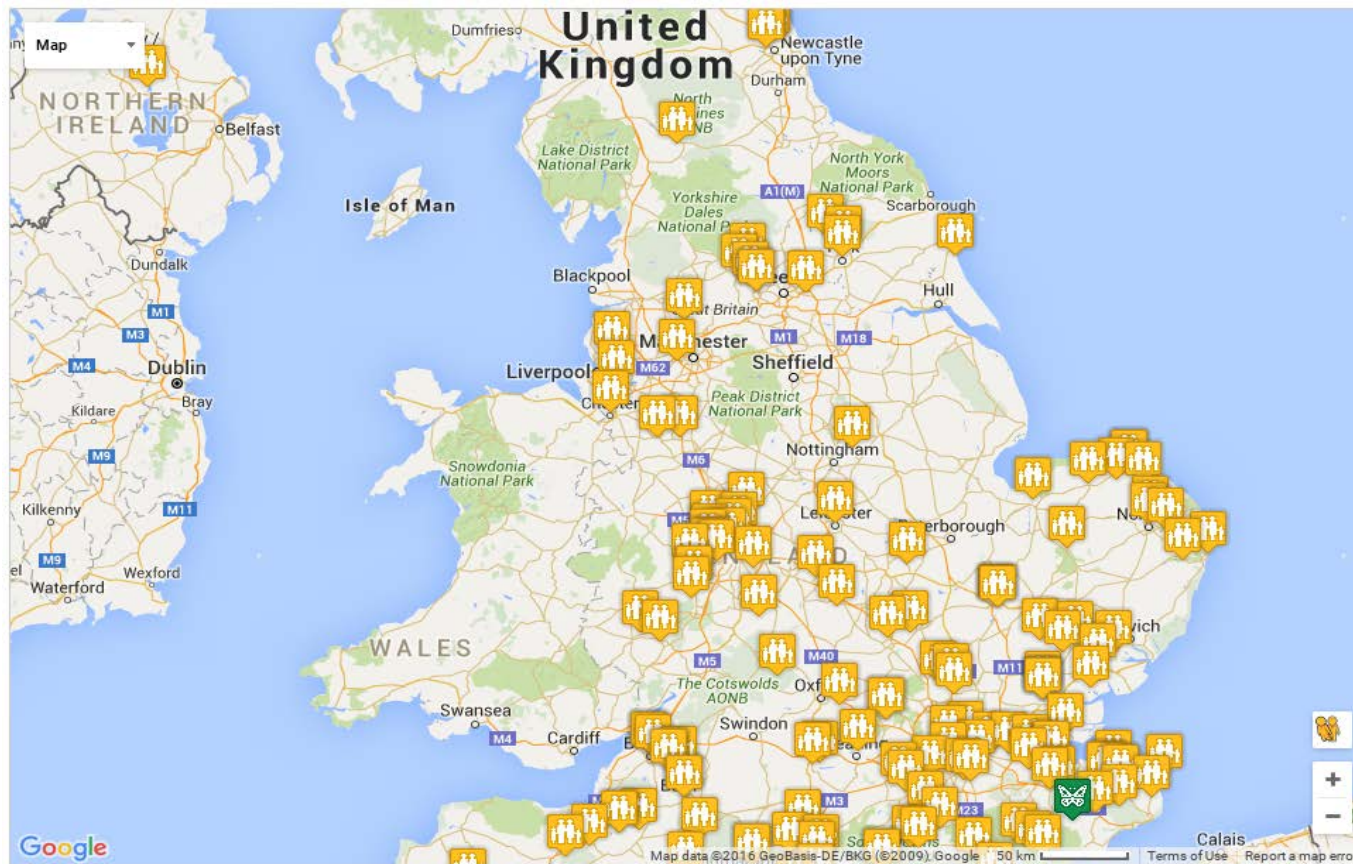


How widespread is Forest School?



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In 2012 it was estimated that 10000 Forest School practitioners had been trained in the UK.



- 38 organisations or individuals are members of the UK Forest School Trainers Network.
- Many more (we don't know how many) are operating without joining the network.
- Courses range in price from £399 (2200 zł) to £1249 (7000 zł)
- Training time ranges from 5 to 10 days
- There is no government regulation of forest school practice.



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The Forest School Community



'quality Forest School for all'



- There is never enough high quality research.
- Most academic works are case studies or project evaluations.
- Key works are 10 years old:
 - **Murray, R. and O'Brien, E.** 2005 "'Such Enthusiasm - A Joy to See" An Evaluation of Forest School in England': Forest Research.
 - **Borradaile, L.** 2006 'Forest School Scotland: An Evaluation', Edinburgh: Forestry Commission Scotland
- Key Authors: Sue Waite, Sara Knight, Trisha Maynard,

- Collaboration not competition.
- Staying true to the ethos – not be diluted.
- Quality assurance of Forest School training.
- Embedding Forest School in the education system.
- Taking the ethos to the family, community and national culture.

Dziękuję bardzo za uwagę



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See you in the forest.

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