



# Learning Outside the Classroom Policy

September 2023



## Baines Endowed Learning Outside the Classroom Policy

This policy reflects the school values and philosophy in relation to teaching and learning outside the classroom. It sets out the framework within which teaching and non-teaching staff can operate and gives guidance on planning, teaching and assessment.

Within this policy, Learning Outside the Classroom is also referred to as LOtC.

The school aims to:

- Develop Learning Outside the Classroom as an entitlement for all young people
- Ensure high-quality provision through Learning Outside the Classroom experiences
- Deliver a wide range of progressive and frequent 'Learning Outside the Classroom' activities for all year groups and including the key areas of EYFS.
- Provide pupils with experiences that promote personal development and well-being
- Improve the effectiveness of Learning Outside the Classroom, through creative planning and development of the outdoor environment
- Develop pupils' knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of their environment and engage with the local community ie. The Rangers at Stanah Country Park, family learning days, liaising with local schools and churches and the Community Officers from Wyre Borough Council.
- Develop the pupils' ability to observe, respect, learn about and record from the world around them
- Recognise the contribution that the outdoors makes to learning in other subjects and aspects such as literacy, numeracy and the spiritual and moral dimensions
- Develop the pupils' cultural knowledge and experience through visits out of school
- Develop an increasing knowledge and understanding in pupils of the health benefits of getting outdoors
- Develop the pupils' ability to nurture their own unique and personal ideas and skills, working with increasing confidence


### **Organisation and Time Allocation**

Learning Outside the Classroom is embedded into the curriculum. Teachers aim to plan outdoor lessons at least once per week (or equivalent), with a broad range of activities to cover different areas of learning in conjunction with JM. This can be through a weekly lesson or a full-day outdoor project where appropriate. Classes will also attend off-premises visits to further develop their cultural and environmental knowledge.

LOtC sessions should integrate within curriculum planning through effective preparation and follow-up work. JM will be responsible for ensuring journals are kept up to date and work is put in topic books and marked.

### **The Outdoor Environment**

The outdoor environment is being developed to support all areas of outdoor learning and provide opportunities which cannot be found in the classroom. Classes will take



responsibility for maintaining different areas of the outdoor environment (e.g. planters). There are members of staff who are trained in willow maintenance and will ensure this is maintained annually. The willow is much thicker now and when trimmed the children have woven the new shoots through the structure.

The outdoors should be used as much as possible. Planning should reflect how the environment will support the teaching and learning within the subject or topic.

### **Assessment and Evaluation of Progress**

Formative assessment will be carried out within sessions to ensure all pupils are sufficiently supported and challenged. Academic progress will be monitored through the curriculum subject which is being supported by LOtC. Journals and topic books for all classes will be available at all times and monitored.

Less tangible outcomes, such as behaviour, engagement and confidence, will be monitored and any concerns recorded on evaluated planning or through behaviour logs.

### **Subject Leader Role**

The LOtC leader is Jo Mylecraine. The role of the subject leader is to ensure Learning Outside the Classroom is embedded throughout the curriculum in all classes and to monitor the outdoor environment and develop provision, with support from the senior leadership team.

The subject leaders are also responsible for ensuring that the Food Hygiene Certificate is updated when required, Fire Safety and First Aid.

### **Educational Visits**

The Educational Visits Co-ordinator is Mr Ben Leah. His role is to ensure effective risk management on out of school LOtC experiences.

All pupils will attend an off-site visit within an academic year. Pupils will have both adventurous and cultural experiences during visits.

All teachers who organise an off-site visit will complete an appropriate risk assessment, including preliminary visits to ensure good planning. All trips will be followed up with a post-visit evaluation.

### **Organisation of Resources/Materials**

Resources to support LOtC are stored in a trolley in the Key Stage 2 corridor, with some extras stored in Key Stage 1. Resources should be used to support learning outdoors, and returned after use.

School has purchased spare outdoor clothing (wellies, waterproof coats) to ensure all children have the appropriate gear for making the most of their environment, and so the weather is not a barrier. These are stored in the Key Stage 1 corridor for ease of access for all classes. There is also a separate class set of wellies for Reception class.



## **Equal Opportunities and Differentiation**

The whole school policy on equal opportunities will be adhered to in LOtC activities. In particular the LOtC programme will ensure that all pupils experience cultural visits during their time at Baines.

Lessons will be differentiated based on the curriculum area they are supporting. Children who are physically less able will be catered for through use of the environment and through adult support and risk assessments regularly updated.

## **Parents and Community Links**

Parents will be kept up-to-date with LOtC developments and activities. Community links are made through educational and cultural visits, both to organisations and other schools. After developing our own outdoor provision, we aim to share our resources and ideas with other schools and community groups to share good practice and further develop our LOtC.

We now have close links with Edgehill University and have hosted a number of LOtC events with the students and their tutors.

## **Learning Outside the Classroom Mark**

The school is committed to ensuring all of the points outlined in this policy are adhered to, with the view to gaining the LOtC accreditation. Work is in place to develop the school's LOtC provision.

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