



National
Guidance

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National Curriculum and Learning Outside the Classroom

'Every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which:

- promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society, and
- prepares pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.'

(The National Curriculum in England – Framework Document – December 2014, DfE)

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTc) has a vital part to play in meeting the demands of the National Curriculum, and in achieving the goal of effectively preparing young people for life beyond school. Outstanding schools have always used educational visits, residential experience and activity in the local learning area of the school and school grounds as an integral part of their whole-school approach.

Curriculum Subjects

Core Subjects are English, Mathematics and Science. Foundation Subjects are Art and Design, Citizenship, Computing, Design & Technology, Languages, Geography, History, Music and PE. All schools are required to teach RE and SRE at secondary level.

LOTc and residential experiences provide opportunities for:

- Structured and creative writing
- Applied maths in real world settings
- Hands on learning in the local environment
- Fieldwork and scientific investigations that lead to a greater understanding and appreciation of the human and natural world.
- Providing direct experiences that engage young people in a greater understanding of different cultures leading to improved community cohesion both at home and abroad.
- Exploring the rich and diverse historical and cultural experiences found locally and further afield.
- The delivery of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities including the skills for working with others, which include communication and collaboration skills.

All schools must make provision for PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education). Outdoor Learning, which provides first hand real and challenging activities, is a powerful process supporting personal and social development (character). Through Outdoor Learning, including residential experiences, pupils develop social skills and physical and mental well-being.

Spiritual, Moral, Social, and Cultural Development

Spiritual development. Outdoor Learning provides opportunities to experience awe and wonder at nature and place, to experience silence and solitude, and to develop self-awareness and self-esteem. Self-confidence is developed through progressive Outdoor Learning and Outdoor Adventurous Activities.

Social development. Evidence from children and young people tells us that residential experience supports the development of key relationships between themselves and accompanying adults. Outdoor Learning, particularly in the school's local learning area, can develop community understanding which may then broaden to understanding society more widely and beyond that the global society.

Cultural development. Learning Outside the Classroom is the real life opportunity for children and young people to experience the richness of cultural objects and a diversity of worldviews that may provide tolerance and harmony between different traditions.

Skills for life

Functional and employability skills. Learning Outside the Classroom can provide opportunities to develop and practise skills involving communication, numeracy, leadership, creativity and innovation.

Personal, Learning & Thinking Skills. Independent enquiry, Creative thinking, Reflective learning, Team working, Self-management, Effective participation are often best developed experientially, through Outdoor Learning.

