



National
Guidance

oeapng.info

The National Curriculum and Learning Outside the Classroom

This document is about the National Curriculum in England – see www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-curriculum-in-england-framework-for-key-stages-1-to-4

National Curriculum Subjects

The compulsory subjects are:

- Core subjects - English, Mathematics and Science;
- Foundation subjects - Art & Design, Citizenship, Computing, Design & Technology, Languages, Geography, History, Music and Physical Education (PE) (including outdoor and adventurous activities);
- Religious Education;
- Health Education;
- Relationships Education (in primary schools);
- Relationships and Sex Education (secondary schools).

Health, Relationships and Sex Education are often taught under the umbrella of Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PHSE).

These subjects must be taught within a curriculum which is balanced and broadly-based and which:

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

Teaching the National Curriculum Outside the Classroom

Learning in the real world outside the classroom, including through outdoor learning, educational visits, residential experiences and adventure activities, is an effective way of meeting the demands of the National Curriculum, and of preparing young people for life beyond school. Outstanding schools have always provided such opportunities as integral parts of their whole-school approach.

Core and Foundation Subjects

Outdoor learning and educational visits can provide opportunities for:

- Inspiration for creative writing;
- Applied maths in real world settings;
- Hands-on learning in the local environment;
- Nature study and fieldwork;
- Scientific investigations;
- Bringing geography and history alive;
- Learning in theatres, galleries and museums;
- Experiencing different industries and lifestyles (e.g. a countryside visit for a city child, or city visit for a rural child);
- Inspiration for art and music;
- Design and technology projects;
- Practising foreign languages;
- Visiting places of worship of different religions;
- Exploration of the rich and diverse historical and cultural objects and places found locally and further afield;
- Outdoor and adventurous activities as part of the PE curriculum.

PSHE and Whole Person Development

Outdoor and adventurous activities, which provide first-hand real challenges, and residential experiences, are a powerful process for supporting personal and social development, character development and resilience, spiritual, moral and cultural development and physical and mental well-being. For example:

- Opportunities for healthy physical activity and developing a healthy lifestyle;
- Opportunities for time in natural places, and to connect with nature;
- Opportunities to experience awe and wonder at nature and place, and to experience silence and solitude;
- Self-confidence and self-esteem developed through progressive challenges and skills development;
- Resilience developed through dealing with adversity;
- Developing and managing positive relationships between participants, and between participants and accompanying adults;
- Learning how to live together with other people and resolve differences;
- Learning how to work in teams;
- Learning in the local area to develop community understanding;
- Experiences of different cultures leading to improved community cohesion and tolerance.

Skills for Life

Functional and Employability Skills

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

Personal, Learning & Thinking Skills

Independent enquiry, creative thinking, reflective learning, team working, self-management and effective participation are often best developed experientially, through outdoor learning.

Practical Skills

Outdoor activities and residential visits provide opportunities to practise useful practical skills such as menu-planning, budgeting, food shopping and preparation, hygiene, cooking, camping, tying knots, navigation, swimming, cycling, first aid, using public transport, reading timetables, risk awareness and risk management.

