

Growing Together Federation

Bowerdean Nursery School
Henry Allen Nursery School
Mapledean Nursery School

Learning Outside the Classroom

Aims of Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC)

- Engage pupils
- Develop resilience
- Extend learning
- Provide cultural development opportunities
- Provide all pupils with an opportunity to excel
- Raise attainment across the curriculum
- Prepare pupils for life and learning beyond Nursery

LOtC takes a variety of forms and can be facilitated by the teacher, or another adult, or instigated by the pupil. At Bowerdean Nursery, learning outside the classroom describes any learning opportunity, which does not solely involve teacher instruction, within the traditional classroom, with a traditional pupil response (ie: chalk and talk followed by a pupil recording individually, his or her response/ teacher demonstration of a skill/method/ concept followed by pupil response).

LOtC includes, but is not exclusive to or limited to:

- Visitors to the Nursery
- Virtual tours or interactive experiences
- Daily free-flow exploration of outdoor grounds (approx. 90 mins each session)
- Weekly walks in our local learning area
- Trips and visits
- Free play (self-directed)
- Music
- Drama and role play
- Curriculum projects
- Problem solving events and activities
- Group activities
- Investigations
- Exploration of materials and processes

LOtC opportunities occur both spontaneously and on a regular planned and progressive basis so that we can:

- Provide for a range of learning styles
- Motivate pupils
- Provide a wholly cross curricular learning environment

We offer the following entitlement to all our pupils:

- Relevant, interesting and often child-led learning topics, which are planned by the staff and pupils and include opportunities for LOtC
- Motivational learning opportunities across the curriculum
- Access to experts and educational places including museums, historical buildings and outdoor centres
- Access to the local environment and the opportunity to explore, ask questions and express wonder
- Progression in skills for learning both in and outside the classroom
- Planned, developmental provision for learning through play

- Planned opportunities to work with pupils from different school communities
- Opportunity to perform and celebrate learning
- Opportunity to learn through practical experience - for example drama, outdoor adventure, indoor adventure, workshops, as appropriate to the learning intention
- Opportunity to lead
- Opportunity to develop relationship skills for learning and life
- Every child to participate in Forest School sessions

How we will deliver this:

Expectations for learning from LOTC are known by all staff and used to plan activities, which are progressive and build upon previous learning. Weekly planning identifies opportunities for LOTC and staff encourage children to extend their learning independently in the natural environment. The Nursery actively seeks out experts from within the school community, makes use of the local environment and works to develop partnerships to enhance provision and opportunity. The Nursery's position within a federation of schools enables us to engage effectively with pupils from other schools and support the development of outdoor learning in the local area. Teachers ensure children with particular needs are provided with appropriate support to enable them to participate fully in LOTC activities. Forest School is planned and delivered to all children, with appropriate links to the curriculum. Many LOTC activities take place with a minimum of additional organisation.

Learning Outside the Classroom - our core offer

- Pupils are encouraged to bring suitable clothing for outdoor learning to Nursery.
- Nursery provides outdoor waterproof suits and spare outdoor clothing so that all children can participate in the eventuality of not having suitable clothing.
- The Nursery operates a Local Learning Area to provide a wider geographic area in which learning can easily and spontaneously occur. This includes the Nursery grounds and the local community.
- All parents sign a permission slip when pupils join our school for free and local trips which are held within the school day and are undertaken to teach the EYFS, reducing the need to chase permission.
- If donations are requested, letters are sent home.
- Pupils are encouraged to help plan LOTC activities.

Where greater organisation is required the code of practice for school trips is followed.

Health and Safety

We support children in taking risks within a safe and secure environment. Pupils are taught to manage risks. It is important to ensure that the outdoor environment offers challenges and teaches the children how to be safe and aware of others. LOTC opportunities will be grasped when available and teachers will assess risk. In the first instance the school's policies relating to Health and Safety and Risk Assessment should be referred to and applied prior to any LOTC activity that may require additional support beyond the reasonable activities one would normally apply within the classroom.

It is also important that the school applies robust safety measures to effectively manage and minimise risks. It is equally important, however, that all involved, including parents, acknowledge that a degree of residual risk remains. Our children are taught to manage risks in regard to LOTC. All pupils are regularly reminded about the importance of staying safe and maintaining the high expectations of behaviour we expect at Nursery. This policy should be considered alongside our behaviour policy.

The following expectations are understood by all pupils:

- Children are explicitly taught the rules for leaving the Nursery site to access Learning Outside the Classroom opportunities in the Local Learning Area or beyond:
 1. Hold hands always
 2. Listen
 3. When the whistle blows, stop immediately and find the teacher
- We must uphold our school expectations of being safe at all times when we participate in outdoor learning.
- We must be sensible and ensure that we achieve our learning.
- We must respect our friends, teachers and members of the public.

If we follow the expectations above, we will enjoy learning and be safe.

Monitoring and Evaluation

In order to monitor this policy the Headteacher, class teacher and Governors will:

- Monitor plans termly for trips, visits and visitors
- Monitor plans termly for opportunities for children to take part in gardening and food preparation activities
- Monitor the participation of pupils in special events
- Collect questionnaires from pupils and parents and use these to review activities
- Complete their own LOTC activity evaluations and submit to the headteacher where appropriate.

It is particularly important that we ensure that:

- All groups in the Nursery are given appropriate opportunity to participate in cross-curricular opportunities.
- All pupils are fully able to participate in trips and visits.
- Learning outside the classroom experiences support and develop children's development.
- Learning outside the classroom experiences are evaluated for their effectiveness.

This policy should be considered in conjunction with:

Behaviour Management
Child Protection
Educational Visits
Equality and Diversity Objectives 2023
First Aid
Forest School
Inclusion
Local Learning Area Procedure 2022
Sen Local Offer