

What benefits will my child get from participating in Outdoor Learning?

Outdoor Learning supports the holistic development of the pupil:

- Health and fitness - Being active in an outdoor, natural environment.
- Increased emotional wellbeing - There is research available supporting this.
- Social development - Communicating, and negotiating with peers and adults to solve problems and share experiences.
- Skills development - Developing fine and gross motor skills and coordination for real purposes.
- Gaining knowledge and understanding - Multi-sensory, real-life learning.
- Individualised learning - Careful observation allows adults to tailor support to pupils' own interests and stage of development.
- Curriculum Links - Outdoor Learning supports many areas of the National Curriculum.

Health and Safety

The health and safety of all participants is central to everything done within a Outdoor Learning programme. Practitioners are fully trained in risk assessment and emergency outdoor first aid. Every Outdoor Learning Programme will have; a Health and Safety policy; a seasonally and daily risk assessed site; risk assessments for activities; first aid and emergency equipment. Some of the activities the pupils may participate in are 'higher-risk activities' (such as campfire cooking or tool use). However, these activities are not available to the pupils until certain behaviours and boundaries are established. Pupils are encouraged and supported in recognising and managing risk for themselves, through real life situations and experiences.

What does my child need to bring?

Your child just needs to bring themselves. However, what they wear is important. The children must wear long trousers and long sleeved tops and have waterproof jackets and wellies or old trainers.

Please be aware that these clothes are likely to get dirty at times.

Outdoor Learning A Guide for Parents

**Look after yourself
Look after each other
Look after the environment**



**"This is the best kind of classroom,
It's a journey through time and space,
From the smallest seed to the largest tree,
This is a Forest and a learning place.**

**This is the best kind of classroom,
Where the seasons don't happen in books.
Where the learning is watching and thinking and talking
And everyone notices, everyone looks."**

From 'The best Kind of Classroom' by Ian MacMillan

What is Outdoor Learning?

Outdoor Learning has been based on the principles of Forest schools which was developed from the Scandinavian education system and is about young people building self-esteem and independence through exploring and experiencing the natural world. Forest Schools is a long term programme delivered by trained practitioners within a natural environment (not necessarily a Forest!).

The main difference between Forest Schools and Outdoor Learning is that Outdoor Learning encompasses a wider range of outdoor learning environments and opportunities.

The ethos of Forest Schools allows learners the time and space to develop skills, interests and understanding through practical, hands-on experiences. It also allows practitioners to step back and observe the young people in order to then encourage and inspire individuals to achieve through careful scaffolding and facilitating. Outdoor Learning has been developed based on the principles of Forest schools but with our own natural Cornish twist.

What will the children be doing?

The Outdoor Learning routine varies depending on the site, however it may include :

- Natural crafts - making necklaces from elder, crowns or dream catchers from willow, collages from natural materials, weaving with long grasses, tree cookies, etc
 - Mud sculptures
 - Shelter building and knot tying
 - Tree climbing
 - Using tools for a purpose - such as peeling bark from sticks with potato peelers to make toasting forks.
 - Fire building and cooking on a camp fire
- Activities linked to literacy, numeracy, science or a topic.

Where will pupils be going?

Outdoor Learning takes place in a wide variety of sites. Initially, these will be school based sites or the local forest site at Crenver Grove. As the children's experience and confidence grows so to will their exposure to a wider range of Outdoor Learning sites such as beaches, moorland and coastal zones.

The sites have some natural features (we may import natural materials such as sticks, logs, leaves and seeds) The sites are safe; thoroughly risk assessed and managed appropriately by trained practitioners.