



Barrowby Church of England Primary School

Outdoor Learning Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At Barrowby Primary School we feel it is important to enable children to use the outdoor environment as a context for learning throughout the year. We also believe that children learn best from first hand experience both within and outside of the classroom and we prize our rural environment as a rich resource to be used to the full.
- 1.2 The whole school policy for Outdoor Learning reflects the consensus opinion of the whole teaching staff and has the full agreement of the governing body.
- 1.3 The implementation of this policy is the responsibility of all the teaching staff.

2. The Nature of Outdoor Education

- 2.1 Outdoor learning involves activities taking place in the outdoor environment, possibly involving a physical and adventurous component whilst teaching respect for the natural environment. Outdoor education also complements other areas of the curriculum providing cross curricular links.
- 2.2 The outdoors can provide space and freedom for a type of learning that is difficult to replicate indoors. All children have the right to experience the unique and special nature of being outdoors.
- 2.3 We are convinced that outdoor education enriches the curriculum and improves educational attainment by enabling pupils to enjoy challenging and unfamiliar experiences that test and develop their physical, social, emotional and personal skills.
- 2.4 Our chief aim is that our pupils will enjoy outdoor learning and develop a curiosity about the environment around them.

3. Entitlement and Implementation

- 3.1 The long-term curriculum plan, together with the medium term planning, provide an opportunity for staff to consider outdoor learning for each year group across the school.
- 3.2 The use of information technology will be integrated in to the subject and may feature the use of the visualiser to study different species found in the wildlife areas, the digital camera to record and present fieldwork information and the internet to research types of mini beasts for example.
- 3.3 Outdoor learning is usually taught as part of a topic and links will be made with other curriculum areas as appropriate.

- 3.4 When engaging in field work, children are expected to behave in a considerate and responsible manner, showing respect for other people and the environment. All out of school activities will comply with the LEA Educational Visit policy.
- 3.5 Children will have the opportunity to use a range of resources when studying outdoors. These include resource boxes which are fully equipped with what's needed for pond dipping and mini beast hunts and outdoor learning cards with orienteering cards for example.
- 3.6 Pupils work in the subject may be recorded on worksheets or photographed and stored in that terms topic book as appropriate to each class.

4. Assessment and Monitoring

- 4.1 Assessment opportunities coincide with the objective for the curriculum subject.
- 4.2 Through outdoor learning we aim to:
- To raise the profile of outdoor learning.
 - To encourage close links with parents and the school in celebrating our outdoor space and the rich learning that can take place within it.
 - To empower children to take ownership of their learning, allowing their minds and bodies to thrive.
 - To provide a safe and secure environment that they can take risks in.
 - To encourage children to care for their environment.

5. Health and Safety

- 5.1 We will support children in taking risks within a safe and secure environment. It is important to ensure that the outdoor environment offers challenges and teaches the children how to be safe and aware of others. Outdoor learning opportunities will be grasped when available and teachers will assess risk. A generic risk assessment has been carried out and will be stored on the S Drive for all members of staff to see.

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

- 6.1 Assessment of the children's learning will be valued equally indoors and outdoors and should be part of the same process. Subject leaders will be responsible for monitoring their subject area outdoors.

7. Outdoor Learning Policy Review

This policy is reviewed by the Head teacher, staff and Governors in accordance with Barrowby School's Policy and Review Cycle for approval by the Full Governing Body, every 3 years.

Last reviewed: November 2022

Next review: November 2025