

Our Outdoor Learning Journey



Intent

Our shared vision of The Mablethorpe Child is at the heart of everything we do. These characteristics will include skills and knowledge, vocabulary, aspirations, resilience, experience, self-esteem. As part of this vision, we have included outdoor learning provision within our curriculum so that children have hands on experiences through which they develop their understanding and application of successful learning skills.

It is our aim that this new LOTC (Learning Outside the Classroom) will uphold the high standards and expectations that our school sets for its pupils in order to increase their life skills and experiences throughout their primary school education. The primary aims of this curriculum will be:

Aims

- To empower children to take ownership of their learning, allowing their minds and bodies to thrive
- To encourage children to develop the skills to solve problems in real world contexts, developing resilient and reflective learners.
- To develop skills of communication, cooperation and collaborative learning.
- To provide a challenging, safe and secure environment within which children can take and manage risks.
- 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 encourage children to care for their environment
- To provide positive opportunities for active learning.
- To ensure that Outdoor Learning has maximum impact on learners' achievement, personal development and well-being.

Implementation

At Mablethorpe Primary Academy, Outdoor Learning follows the expectations set out by Ofsted and the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom; to plan and integrate LOTC within the curriculum and to provide continuous and progressive opportunities to learn outside the classroom that build on knowledge and skills gained during previous experiences both inside and outside the classroom. **2008 Ofsted report "Learning outside the classroom - how far should you go?"**

Outdoor learning opportunities are identified by Subject Co-ordinators on their subjects' Medium-Term Plans which reflect the vision for the Mablethorpe Child.

Together, as an academy, we are working towards the Learning Outside the Classroom Mark Direct to ensure that Outdoor Learning is completely embedded through **all** curriculum subjects, continuing CPD opportunities for staff to support and equip them with the skills and knowledge for what we need for the Mablethorpe Child to excel.

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Skills and Knowledge

Learning to take on the risks around us helps children build invaluable life skills, like **critical problem solving, empathy and teamwork**. The outdoor learning opportunities identified by subject coordinators within their Medium-Term Plans lend themselves to a more kinesthetic style of learning so that children can work together on shared experiences, problem solving and develop aspects of British Values such as Mutual Respect.



Vocabulary

Although subjects are taught specifically, through carefully planned sequencing of the whole curriculum, opportunities to rehearse vocabulary are given across numerous subjects. For example: Outdoor learning encourages opportunities to use geographical and science vocabulary by linking directly to the environment. The use of the outdoors is also included in subjects such as computing in which vocabulary relating to **'concrete and abstract thinking'** is explored through identifying nature close. In addition, Religious Education vocabulary and concepts such as **creation, guidance and straight path** are explored through using and investigating our academy environment.



Aspirations

As children learn beyond the classroom, they encounter different people in real world contexts and are able to identify the roles, jobs and careers of the people they meet. Outdoor learning exposes the children to a wider career base than what they would normally experience throughout their daily lives. Experiencing and viewing in a real-world context raises aspirations, equipping young people with the skills they need to become active and responsible citizens and shape a fit and motivated workforce.



Resilience

Resilience is defined as an individual's ability to 'bounce back from adversity or difficulties, or as others may call it, your 'character'. It is a skill we hope to have when it is called upon and a skill that we strive to teach children. By developing resilience, our children learn that mistakes and challenges don't define them and that they can try again and improve. Outdoor learning significantly contributes to developing resilience and encourages children to build self-belief and self-control whilst also creating social support in a natural and neutral environment.



Experience

Through motivating trips and experiences, we will give the Mablethorpe child an opportunity to experience learning beyond the classroom to enrich our ambitious curriculum and deepen understanding. The wide range of learning beyond the classroom and cultural capital opportunities include visits such as beach visits, museums, careers talk, performances and educational visits.



Self Esteem

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At Mablethorpe Primary Academy, we ensure that everyone can succeed in all subjects through careful planning and differentiation. Outdoor learning opportunities are identified within the curriculum and differentiated so that all children can achieve. Building self-confidence and self-esteem is fundamental to any young person's development. Outdoor activities provide a valuable alternative to that of the classroom, often non-competitive, avenues for achievement, as well as opportunities to develop independence and self-reliance. Outdoor learning can create pride in the school and wider community and promote community involvement, renewing children's pride and creating a sense of belonging and responsibility. Outdoor learning engages children and with learning and improves their health and well-being

IMPACT

Children make progress by knowing more and remembering more. By linking the curriculum to the Outdoors, children remember more of the lesson taught due to their engagement. Learning outside the classroom enables all children to thrive in their learning. It encourages the use of mixed ability, learning groups, giving all children the scope to work with each other. It has also improved the well being of the children and is motivating children to look forward to what they are going to be learning 'next.'

Outdoor learning has become more developed in our academy as we try to push the boundaries of traditional learning styles. By using exciting and fun activities, like interacting with nature, our children benefit from being challenged in a creative, open environment.

Learning outside the classroom is increasing the use of children's problem-solving skills, cooperation and interpersonal communication: all essential skills for today's young people. Most importantly, the strengthening relationship the children have with the outdoors is highly likely to encourage active lifestyles and a positive approach to the environment, creating a more respectful generation that will aim to be greener and more sustainable

Previous Improvement Actions and Impact	Current Improvement Actions	Future Improvement Actions
OL lead identified OL opportunities in subject MTP to create progression maps. Currently in use. 1 OL opportunity per subject per 6-week term. In total, children had 6 lessons over the term of OL.	<p>Continue gathering evidence for LOTC for the Awards Mark.</p> <p>Subject coordinators use the LOTC PowerPoint to identify other ways for learning beyond the classroom for their subjects. Increase to a minimum of X 2 Outdoor lessons per 6-week term.</p> <p>Staff CPD - use LOTC training sessions</p> <p>Pupil Voice assessment</p>	<p>Increase to 40% of lessons taught outside/beyond the classroom to achieve Gold Award status.</p> <p>Train up other staff to lead OL</p>