



Hintlesham and Chattisham CofE Primary School

Outdoor Learning

Intent

Quite simply, it is our intention that every pupil, irrelevant of needs, develops a real passion for the great outdoors and celebrates their local, natural environment. We wish for every child to develop a knowledge and passion for their local habitat and how to look after and nurture it – the flora and fauna as well as embracing the physical and personal challenges that working outside can present.

Through Outdoor Learning we aim to support this philosophy by:

- Fostering the enjoyment of the great outdoors;
- Embracing the physical challenges that working outside can bring;
- Developing both fine and gross motor skills;
- Developing personal and social skills by working in pairs and teams to complete tasks;
- Developing a range of bespoke Outdoor Learning skills such as knot tying, frapping, lashing and whittling;
- Developing a knowledge of local common flora and fauna;
- Fostering an awareness of seasonal change;
- Encouraging children to take risks in a supported environment;
- Developing problem solving and resilience through practical tasks such as den building;
- Ensuring children develop an understanding of keeping safe;
- Encouraging children to be active and have a healthy lifestyle.
- Encouraging pupils' personal involvement with practical tasks enabling them to improve their attention span, persistence and commitment.
- Ensuring that the learning is matched to the differing needs of all the children as well as specific groups, such as SEND, pupil premium etc. Extra support and additional/ adapted resources to be provided to those children where it is required.
- Using our wonderful onsite local wood to contextualise learning across the whole curriculum eg-using our instructional texts we have written / minibeast hunts in science/bringing stories to life with parents and other stakeholders.

Big Ideas

- Passion
- Knowledge
- Challenge

Implementation

Ruby Class will participate in outdoor learning activities on a Friday afternoon each week. During the school year, the other classes will experience outdoor learning sessions. Trained teaching staff and directed non-teaching staff allows for all children to receive a quality session and all staff to understand the potential learning opportunities this resource has to offer. Outdoor learning sessions happen whatever the weather – as the saying goes “there is no such thing as bad weather, just bad clothing!” – the only exemptions being strong winds and heavy snow due to safety. Outdoor learning sessions are planned to involve a mixture of both adult-led and child-initiated activities. Adult led tasks may involve the teaching and application of outdoor learning skills such as plant identification, sawing, using loppers or whittling, or indeed the teaching of any area of the school curriculum which is enhanced by being in an outdoor learning environment such as a bespoke phonics session or the geography of a river system. Child-led activities often support personal, social and emotional development or demonstrate the independent application of prior teaching and learning such as mini beast hunting or constructing a water tight den.

Impact

By the end of their schooling at Hintlesham and Chattisham C of E Primary School, pupils will have been given the opportunity to experience and learn through outdoor learning. They will have acquired a range of outdoor skills, applied them and experienced an area of the school curriculum which is enhanced by being in an outdoor learning environment. They will also have developed a passion for the great outdoors which celebrates their local, natural environment, and developed knowledge and respect for their local habitat. Alongside this, they will have embraced the physical and personal challenges that learning outside presents.