

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOTC)

Intent, Implementation and Impact

Finham Primary School & Nursery is a vibrant 'child-centred' learning community that is part of a family of schools in Finham Park Multi Academy Trust. We have based our school ethos on 5 key values that enable our children to be better equipped for today and their future.

Teamwork

Respect

Integrity

Enjoyment

Discipline

Intent

What is Learning Outside the Classroom (Lotc)?

- Learning outside the classroom incorporates all learning opportunities that take place outside of the normal classroom environment. These include learning in the school grounds, in the local area to the school, school trips further afield and residential school trips. Learning outside the classroom opportunities can happen across all areas of the curriculum.

Why a focus on Learning Outside the Classroom? There is substantial research evidence to suggest that outdoor learning programmes can impact positively on young people's lives:

- **Attitudes, beliefs and self-perceptions** - examples of outcomes include independence, confidence, self-esteem, locus of control, self-efficacy, personal effectiveness and coping strategies;
- **Interpersonal and social skills** - such as social effectiveness, communication skills, group cohesion and skills in working with others;
- **Attainment** - an outcome of enjoyment in learning, leading to higher achievement and improved knowledge, skills and understanding.

We recognise that children at Finham Primary School do not get the equal opportunities outside school to experience the outdoor environment or to experience social and personal challenge in the outdoors. This is why Learning outside the classroom is central to our curriculum.

At Finham Primary School we believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

Learning Outside the classroom at Finham will contribute, support and enhance the teaching of a broad and balanced curriculum across all subject areas which, promoting spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development as well as preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

Learning Outside the Classroom will support and enhance the learning and development of every child:

- 1 – **Finham Curriculum** – positive impacting on the learning across all of our curriculum areas.
- 2 – **Personal and Social Development** (self-confidence, resolving differences, resilience)
- 3 - **Spiritual, Moral and Cultural Development** (community understanding, experiencing different cultures)
- 4 – **Physical and Mental Well-Being** (developing healthy lifestyles, connecting with nature)
- 5 - **Functional and Employability Skills** (leadership, creativity and innovation)
- 6 - **Personal, Learning and Thinking Skills** (reflective learning, team working, effective participation, personal challenge)

7 - Practical Skills (swimming, cycling, risk awareness, risk management, food preparation and cooking)

All children at Finham will have access to a variety of visits further afield that will be planned to link with key topics/learning in each year group. The plan for visits will cover visits from Nursery to Year 6, and will ensure they link to different areas of the curriculum and are specific to each year groups learning aims. RE visits will be included in the long term plan, these visits are planned by the RE curriculum lead. Residential visits are planned for Year 5 and Year 6, with Year 4 having a sleepover in school.

Local Area visits will be used across the school to enhance and support the Finham curriculum.

Learning Outside the classroom opportunities within the school grounds will be created regularly and in different areas of the curriculum. They will be created to:

- 1 - access different areas of the school grounds.
- 2 – access opportunities to connect with nature.
- 3 – support the engagement all children in learning across the curriculum.
- 4 – develop social and personal skills across the curriculum.
- 5 – support attainment and an enjoyment of learning in different contexts.

Implementation

Subject Leaders across school will include LOTC opportunities in their long term plans, with links to ideas/lesson plans to support class teachers in delivering LOTC. These opportunities within each subject could be visitors to the school, using school grounds, using our local area as well as visits further afield.

Local Area and Sporting Events operating procedures have been put in place to ensure that the process teachers need to follow is clear and effective when taking children into our local area to learn.

Key visits have been identified with the RE curriculum across school to support spiritual, moral and cultural development.

For each year group visits have been created that link directly to aspects of the curriculum to ensure these visits enhance the teaching and learning in each year group. The EVC regularly reviews the visits with each year group to ensure the visits are effective at supporting the children’s learning. Visits are adapted or changed based on feedback from the class teachers or changes in the curriculum.

Swimming in Year 4 happens every year during the Autumn and Spring Terms. Bike ability is completed by children in Year 6 during the Autumn Term each year.

Active Maths and Literacy lessons are being taught through our membership to the Teach Active resource. The teach active resource supports class teachers from Reception to Year 6 with ideas, planning and resources for active lessons in Literacy and Maths.

Class teachers highlight their planning to ensure that opportunities for LOTC and Active lessons across the school are tracked and evaluated regularly throughout the year. Each term the LOTC lead evaluates planning to track the opportunities children are having in LOTC and in which areas of the curriculum. The LOTC lead will also evaluate visitors, local area opportunities and visits further afield to ensure these opportunities are created consistently and in different areas of the curriculum. Feedback is given to class teachers across the school within staff meetings each term, with key focuses and targets for the following term given to ensure consistency of LOTC opportunities across the school.

Impact

Children at Finham Primary School experience a wide variety of learning outside the classroom opportunities that are specifically created in relation to the curriculum in a given year group. These experiences include:

- at least two visits per year which takes place further afield

- regular visits to our designated local area
- lessons across the curriculum consistently taking place in our school grounds
- RE visits created to match the year groups curriculum
- Visitors coming into school to enhance learning opportunities across the school
- All children in Years 4, 5 and 6 to have the opportunity for a residential experience

The LOTC subject lead monitors each term the LOTC opportunities children are accessing across the school and in which curriculum areas. Consistent staff meetings are held to share good practise and evaluate local area and further afield visits to ensure learning opportunities and relevant, effective and safe.

Subject leaders evaluate and observe LOTC lessons/opportunities in their subject to ensure effective and relevant learning is taking place in the school grounds, local area and further afield.