



OUTDOOR LEARNING AND FOREST SCHOOL AT GOSDEN HOUSE

WHAT DO WE BELIEVE IS ESSENTIAL IN THE TEACHING AND LEARNING OF OUTDOOR LEARNING AND FOREST SCHOOL FOR GOSDEN LEARNERS?

At Gosden House Outdoor Learning is embedded throughout our whole school curriculum, providing children engaging opportunities to experience, encounter, enquire, exchange and express themselves. Outdoor Learning at Gosden House nurtures the whole child.

At Gosden House, we believe that as educators we must provide our learners with a real-world context for learning. Learning in a real context can turn the abstract into the concrete. It inspires curiosity and investigation, which inspires enquiring minds, and enables children and young people to achieve.

We strongly feel that outdoor learning provides all of our learners with the perfect natural environment they require to learn in a; calm, safe, nurturing environment.

Taking learning outside of the classroom allows for more holistic teaching to take place, our learners are given opportunities and experiences that cannot be replicated inside the confinement of a classroom.

We agree with the below statement and have worked collaboratively as a whole school to create an outdoor curriculum which supports the below quotation;

"The classroom of the future should not be limited to a classroom at all – an 'excellent' curriculum would go beyond the traditional boundaries and offer real-world learning experiences outdoors." Taking Learning Outdoors – LTS 200

In line with our school, vision of creating a flexible, adaptive and creative community, which prioritises personalised learning that is meaningful, relevant, stimulating and fun we set out below our reasons for being a school that prioritises Outdoor Learning, weaving it throughout our whole curriculum.

- Our learners are regulated and engaged when outside, they are provided with natural and practical experiences.
- Many of our learners do not have sufficient opportunities to play, explore and engage with nature at home. School is their haven where they are free to experience their world through exploration, curiosity and play.
- Given the needs of our learners Outdoor Learning is crucial in helping children learn by allowing them to make connections between their experiences and the world around them in a meaningful context.

HOW DO WE DEVELOP, STRETCH AND NURTURE THE ESSENTIAL SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN OUTDOOR LEARNING AND FOREST SCHOOL?

Our Outdoor Learning Mission aims to fully support and promote our Learning Habits by building environments in which children's learning flourishes. Our Outdoor Curriculum is founded upon building learning environments of ENCOUNTER, ENQUIRY, EXCHANGE, and EXPRESSION, which in turn naturally build upon the already existing Learning Habits we aim to provide all learners with.

- Outdoor Learning will be purposeful and meaningful to all learners.

Learning Power Vision: To nurture in all our learners a lifelong love of learning. Our whole school curriculum will build resilience and grit in our learners, so when they leave Gosden House they are better equipped to face life's challenges in a world that is forever changing.



- Outdoor Learning at Gosden House will enhance the existing curriculum and will be taught/experienced in conjunction with other subject areas rather than a standalone 'subject'
- Outdoor learning will be planned for by all teachers, lessons will be included in Medium Term and Short Term Planning
- Team Planning will be encouraged.
- Outdoor Learning will provide learners the freedom to engage in more extensive open-ended learning.
- Learning and progress will be evidenced using EVIDENCE, OBSERVATIONS and through pupil's voice.
- Planning review and team planning meetings to take place termly.

HOW DO WE KNOW OUR LEARNERS ARE ACTUALLY LEARNING? HOW DO OUR LEARNERS KNOW HOW THEY ARE DOING?

Learning and progress in this curriculum area will be tracked and evidenced individually for each learner. Observations will take place weekly which will be uploaded to Evisense, skills will be transferred on to our assessment tool BSQUARED in all areas of the curriculum for example PSHE. The pupil's voice will be heard and recorded. Parents voice and opinions will also be sought after a block of Forest School sessions. Teacher meetings will take place half termly to discuss the impact of FS and Outdoor learning on a pupil's wellbeing and progress in other areas of curriculum.

Practical skills will be assessed and tracked children will use an OUTDOOR Learning Passport to track and record their practical skill knowledge confidence level.

IN OUTDOOR LEARNING HOW WILL OUR GOSDEN GRADUATE BENEFIT FROM THEIR SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE IN THE FUTURE ?

Outdoor Learning lesson plans and objectives to ensure they provide contexts that draw together several aspects of learning, connecting different subject disciplines, focusing on a specific subject, or linking learning through cross-curricular dimensions or the development of personal, social, learning and thinking skills

Outdoor Learning at Gosden will give learners a sense of autonomy, having the chance to think critically, make decisions, take responsibility and manage risks. All skills essential for life as a Gosden Graduate.

Outdoor Learning at Gosden will give learners a sense of autonomy, having the chance to think critically, make decisions, take responsibility and manage risks

Class Teachers will plan and scaffold lessons that offer opportunities for cooperation and collaboration.

Finally, Outdoor Learning at Gosden House will broaden horizons and raise aspirations, offering contexts that challenge learners and encourage them to step outside their comfort zone where necessary.

The practical skills taught and acquired will be imperative to our learners no matter what path or career they choose to follow.

