

**St John Fisher Catholic Primary School**

**LEARNING OUTSIDE  
THE CLASSROOM  
POLICY**



**Chair of Governors:**

**Date:**

**March 2019**

**Date for Review:**

**March 2021**

# **LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM POLICY**

## **St John Fisher Primary School Learning Outside the Classroom Policy**

### **Rationale: Why is Learning Outside the Classroom important to our pupils?**

As a school we are committed to Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) and encouraging the pupils to explore their world as much as possible.

Real-world learning brings the benefits of formal and informal education together and reinforces what good educationalists have always known -that the most meaningful learning occurs through acquiring knowledge and skills through real-life, practical or hands-on activities. Our curriculum is focused on developing independent, practical and functional skills as well as becoming socially integrated into the school community and the wider world. These aims cannot be fully achieved within the classroom environment and we consider it essential that our pupils access a wide range of experiences both on and off site to practice and generalise skills. For our pupils, LOtC gives opportunity for the following outcomes:

- To have a greater range of experiences, some of which will be regular and planned for in a progressive way to provide stimulation and challenge.
- To develop confidence in coping in different environments and the skills required for this. It is essential that communication skills are practised and applied in a range of situations and realistic contexts.
- To learn new concepts with the support of a 'real-world' context.
- To be motivated to learn as practical and sensory experiences prove most engaging and effective, thus driving progress.
- To achieve personal growth and celebrate their own achievements e.g. through school displays, celebration assemblies and awards.

The senior leadership team and governing body promote and value opportunities for learning outside the classroom and how it supports our creative curriculum. Maximising opportunities to learn outside the classroom also supports objectives in the school development plan.

### **How is learning outside the classroom embedded into our curriculum?**

Opportunities for LOtC are linked to our creative curriculum approach which reflects the ages, stages of development and personal pathways of our pupils throughout the school. Visits and experiences are timetabled with a frequency that is suitable for each class group, in many cases this is weekly or more. These are planned for in a progressive way with a greater range of experiences and increased levels of confidence and independence being achieved over time. For example, early years use their outside area daily as part of their continuous provision, KS1 and KS2 classes have weekly forest school lessons throughout the year and upper KS2 classes complete a course of canoeing and orienteering. All classes visit

the local area and beyond throughout the year on several occasions. These visits are often used to support the thematic learning delivered in the classroom and to develop personal and social skills which are considered to be significant part of our curriculum.

Residential experiences are currently offered to year 2, 4 and 6 which include adventurous activities and challenges.

### **Procedures, roles and responsibilities**

At St. John fisher we use Evolve online system for off site visits. This ensures that details of the visit, plans and risk assessments are sent to the Educational Visits Co-ordinator in advance for scrutiny. If deemed appropriate, forms are submitted to the Head teacher for approval and once this has been obtained, a visit can be carried out. Risk Assessment frameworks are in place. Parents and carers are asked at the start of each year to sign a consent form for regular visits in the local area. If a different sort of visit is planned or one that is a greater distance from the school, parents and carers will be informed and further consent will be gained via a letter to parents. For more information regarding approval procedures, responsibilities, consent and risk management for visits and residential please see the school's Educational Visits and Overnight Stays Policy.

The following roles are currently in place to support LOtC:

<i>Janine Dixon-Gibbon</i>	Lead teacher for LOtC
<i>Nichola Hegarty</i>	Head teacher with responsibility for EVC
<i>Teachers and Teaching Assistants</i>	Contribute to planning and leading LOtC opportunities relevant to own class groups and which deliver curriculum aims. Visit leaders complete risk assessments and Evolve form and share with staff.

### **How does ongoing communication support our vision for LOtC and celebrate pupil's achievements?**

Photographs are used extensively to share pupils' experiences and achievements in LOtC and promote the message that this is central to helping all young people reach their potential. This takes place through:

- School Website
- Displays around school and in classroom
- News letters from school to home
- Presentations during parent/carers meetings

**How is progress in LOtC reviewed, monitored and evaluated?**

LOtC will be evaluated as part of our overall curriculum and assessment approach's as pupil's understanding, independence and ability to generalise skills beyond the classroom will be observed and measured. This links directly to our school development plan.

This policy has been approved and adopted by staff and Governors.

Signed ..... (Chair of Governors)    Date .....

Signed ..... (Headteacher)            Date .....