

Subject Leader - Mrs Hannah Bentele

Intent, Implementation & Impact Statement Outdoor Learning

Intent

At Carter's Charity Primary School we want children to learn six explicit skills from learning outside. These are:

- Positive Attitudes
- Communication and Collaboration,
- Making Learning Connections
- Using tools, equipment and then Environment effectively,
- Managing risks
- Care for the Environment, plants and animals

These aims will be covered with a variety of Forest Schools, Beach Schools and outdoor learning teachings and strategies that not only seek to aid the children in their learning but also be provided in a positive, enjoyable, creative and inspiring manner that will allow them to transfer the skills and knowledge from the Outdoor Learning lessons into the classroom and life outside of school. We value the further opportunities for learning that can take place outside the classroom, including activities within the school's own buildings, grounds or immediate area. Outdoor Learning is a broad term that includes: outdoor play [learning through play], environmental education, recreational and adventure activities, emotional health and well-being and personal and social development.

It will also enable children to connect with their local community by fostering an appreciation for the natural environment and the world around them. Through hands-on experiences, they will gain a deeper understanding of local ecosystems, cultural heritage, and social responsibilities. This immersion in nature and community strengthens their sense of belonging and encourages active participation in local conservation efforts. Furthermore, outdoor learning broadens their perspective, helping them see themselves as global citizens with a responsibility to protect the environment and engage with global challenges.

Implementation

We aim to enrich the curriculum by providing relevant, engaging outdoor experiences carefully planned to fit within our lessons covering all aspects of the curriculum. Discrete outdoor learning lessons will be timetabled at least once each half term, led by a qualified Outdoor Learning leader. Classes will also have at least 1 visit to the local area each term, for example a lesson on the beach, or a litter pick on the sea wall. This will be in addition to separate outdoor learning that the children will engage in with their class teachers.

Outdoor Learning is usually child led and with a focus on social development, it engages children in a manner that is hard to imitate in the classroom. This creates new opportunities for learning, development and mindfulness that might not be accessed during regular day-to-day schooling. At Carter's, we have access to a range of outdoor learning environment including the nature garden area, school's allotment, school field and the "Wilderness" area. It is on school

grounds that most of the learning will take place, but it is our aim to also expand our outdoor learning into the wider community and environment to give the children a wider range of experience and allow them to become more familiar with the world surrounding them. We have easy access to the sea wall, where we can access the local salt marsh beach, or walk to Knott End village, and travel on the ferry across to Fleetwood.

Outdoor Learning will help children to care for and respect the outside environment, enable them to work on their own and with others, give them the space and freedom and the opportunity to relax, enjoy and have fun outdoors.

When appropriate Outdoor Learning is linked with the National Curriculum, as well as developing the six skills from learning outside (see Intent). Planning has a flexible approach, considering changes to the weather, seasons, and the children's needs and interests.

The school's Eco Warriors are involved in keeping the school grounds tidy, managing the habitat areas and developing their outdoor skills. They meet half termly to discuss and plan how to support and develop the Outdoor Learning areas, as well as planning sustainability projects, for example The Eco Market.

Impact

Outdoor Learning at Carter's provides positive, challenging and enjoyable learning experiences that add to children's understanding and learning of a wide variety of curriculum areas. By learning through the six Outdoor Learning skills (see Intent) children will also be demonstrating our school values.

- Independence
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Co-operation
- Resilience
- Positivity

Through hands-on experiences, students learn independence by navigating and exploring the natural world on their own, building confidence in their abilities. Responsibility is developed by caring for our school grounds, the local environment and working together to solve problems and assess risks. In outdoor settings, respect for nature, our local area and wider world, and others' is encouraged, helping children's cultural capital and developing their understanding of being an active global citizen.

Co-operation is central to group activities, where children must work together, share ideas, and support one another in achieving learning objectives. Challenges faced during outdoor learning also strengthen resilience, as children develop ideas and learn from their mistakes. Finally, outdoor learning promotes positivity, as children engage in enjoyable, enriching activities that supports mental well-being and inspire a love for learning and an optimistic outlook on overcoming challenges.

Children at Carter's will leave in Year 6 as well-rounded individuals having participated in a broad and balanced curriculum.