

Date: May 2023

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# Primrose Hill School Learning Outside the Classroom Policy



## **School Aims and Implementation**

At Primrose Hill, we understand the importance of Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC). LOtC includes, learning opportunities in different environments within the school building, the school grounds, the local area and visits further afield. It also includes visits from parents and external providers delivering learning opportunities in school or online, e.g. via Zoom.

We believe in LOtC because it:

- Raises attainment for all children, supporting improved standards in the classroom
- Offers new and exciting experiences that enable all children to reach their full potential
- Inspires and includes **all** children
- Develops independence, confidence and team working skills
- Supports the school values of courage, ambition, respect, and excellence CARE

### **Primrose Hill School LOtC aims:**

- To develop LOtC so that it is inclusive and an entitlement for all children, regardless of SEND, socio-economic status and gender.
- To ensure high-quality, cross-curricular provision through LOtC opportunities.
- To deliver a wide range of frequent LOtC opportunities for all children.
- To provide children with LOtC opportunities that promote personal development and well-being.
- To design the curriculum so that it includes progressive experiences for all children.
- To improve the effectiveness of outdoor learning through clear planning and evaluation.
- To ensure children are part of the planning and evaluation process, including evaluating risk benefit for LOtC opportunities.

### **The school works towards these aims by:**

- Promoting high quality learning and attainment, through effective planning and assessment.
- Providing a stimulating learning environment indoors and outdoors.
- Working in partnership with parents and the community.

### **Providing an effective outdoor learning environment:**

At Primrose Hill we utilise a variety of outdoor areas in order to deliver effective LOtC. These include:

- A pond area, with a viewing platform and a variety of plants and animals.
- A woodland area, including paths, seating, noticeboards, bug hotels, bird boxes and a bird hide.
- An eco area, including raised beds, compost bins, planters, a polytunnel and a covered outdoor classroom area.
- Playground markings, adventure trails, outdoor maps and whiteboards.
- Large outdoor classroom, with benches, including storage boxes for outdoor resources and equipment.
- Outdoor canopy with benches and reading area.
- EYFS includes an extensive outdoor area, designed to support children's learning across the curriculum.

## Planning and Assessing LOfC at Primrose Hill:

- We will continually explore new ways of providing varied and stimulating LOfC opportunities.
- Develop ways to promote children's personal development and well-being through planning stimulating LOfC opportunities.
- Our creative curriculum planning ensures that purposeful links are made between all areas of the curriculum and LOfC experiences, including Maths, English and Science.
- Clear continuity and progression of learning is evident in planning and assessment across Key Stages.
- LOfC in the school grounds, local area and off site visits as well as weekly Forest School sessions are planned for and timetabled accordingly.
- Formative and summative assessments are used to inform planning and ensure progression across Key Stages.
- Children experience progressive levels of challenge through the places they visit and their experiences, e.g. Year 5 and 6 residential activities.
- Continually evaluate and develop LOfC through discussions with children and adults in school.

## Developing Partnerships

At Primrose Hill we have developed partnerships with people and businesses in the community to ensure effective, varied and meaningful outdoor learning experiences for all children from EYFS-KS2, these include regular visits to and from:

- **R.E**- Visit to Euxton Parish Church
- **UTW**- Walk around the local area, visits to local shops (Geography)
- **UTW**-Farm visit to school
- **Musical Performance** – King George's Hall
- **Science**- Farm Visit
- **Science/Geography** - Bring Yer Wellies visit
- **Musical Performance** – King George's Hall
- **RE** – Hindu Temple visit
- **History**- Euxton Mill visit
- **Musical Performance** – Octagon, Bolton
- **History** – Chester visit museum / Roman Ruins
- **Geography** – Formby coastal walk, Southport Eco Centre
- **History** – Mere Tun – Saxons (Autumn)
- **Geography** – Cuerden Valley River Study
- **1 night residential** – WW2 Evacuation
- **Musical Performance** – Octagon
- **History – Houghton Tower** – Tudors
- **Musical Performance** – Octagon Theatre
- **Residential, 2 nights** - Hothersall Lodge
- **History** – Liverpool World Museum – Ancient Egypt
- **Musical Performance** – Octagon Theatre
- **Residential, 3 nights** – Boreatton Park
- **End of Year 6** – The Flowerbowl Entertainment Centre, Garstang
- Chorley School Sports Partnership- working closely we provide many sporting opportunities
- Euxton library for talks and visits
- Charitable organisations/ Foundations-Fairtrade, OXFAM

## **Celebrating LOfC Achievements**

LOfC achievements of both the children and School are celebrated and shared in the same way as all other achievements at our school. At Primrose Hill we celebrate all children's achievements, shared through our news page on our school website, Twitter and our weekly newsletter. We have regular parents' evenings, open days and termly reports to ensure parents are updated with their children's progress. We also have weekly assemblies where children are awarded merit and 'Super Pupil' certificates. Pupils are encouraged to bring in any out of school achievements so that these can be shared and celebrated.

## **Managing LOfC Opportunities**

LOfC is a whole school approach. All staff will provide meaningful, frequent, continuous, progressive LOfC opportunities that maintain children's interest and engagement, in order to develop children's confidence so that they achieve their full potential.

### **All staff will:**

- Make meaningful links across all curriculum subjects and the LOfC experiences.
- Make LOfC a continuation of the classroom rather than a stand-alone event.
- Use the surrounding area, local businesses and community facilities including charities creatively and regularly for teaching a variety of curriculum subjects.
- Understand and use the risk benefit when planning and providing children with LOfC opportunities.
- Visit off site establishments to ensure safety and meaningful learning opportunities before a class visit takes place.
- Maintain strong links with parents and use their expertise to develop LOfC learning opportunities through the school.
- Use EVOLVE risk assessment platform when planning any off-site visits and follow standard procedures when managing risk using Form 5 risk assessment.

### **Management will:**

- Regularly audit, evaluate and review the effectiveness of school grounds - also monitored through the Eco Committee.
- Provide new staff members with a tour of the school grounds as part of their induction.
- Evaluate the safety of any on or off-site visits.
- Apply for grants and funding to develop the school grounds.
- Monitor the effectiveness of LOfC, ensuring it is differentiated, progressive and regularly evaluated.
- Observe lessons and monitor planning to ensure LOfC is meaningful, varied, continuous and progressive.
- Provide training induction training and staff meeting time to ensure staff are confident teaching and are aware of new developments in LOfC.

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