

Rationale for outdoor education in the 14-19 provision.

Outdoor education provides opportunities to develop positive relationships with the environment, others and ourselves through interaction with the natural world and local communities. These relationships are essential for the wellbeing and sustainability of individuals, society and our environment. Outdoor education engages students in practical and active learning experiences in natural environments and community settings typically beyond the school classroom. In these environments, students develop the skills and understandings to move safely and competently while valuing a positive relationship with natural environments and promoting the sustainable use of these environments.

Outdoor education is uniquely placed to address the general capabilities and cross curriculum priorities of the 14-19 curriculum, in particular personal and social capability, critical and creative thinking, and ethical understanding. Outdoor education can be instrumental in the teaching of self-reliance, independence and leadership, the development of an adventurous spirit, managing personal risks, safe journeys in nature, the value of life-long outdoor recreation for enjoyment, health and well-being, understanding nature through direct experience, for developing deeper human-nature relationships and developing relationships within the local community.

Any learning experience that can be undertaken in the outdoors or in a natural setting can contribute positively to a range of learning areas. The unique and specific outcomes that outdoor education can contribute to a student's education include:

- Providing direct personal contact with nature (the outdoors) – in ways that promote enjoyment of outdoor activity and nature. Such enjoyment can be the basis for ongoing outdoor recreation and nature experiences through their lifespan, supporting personal health and wellbeing and providing the foundations for ecological literacy.
- Developing competence and safety management in the outdoors. This outcome includes how outdoor education can teach students to assess risk and make judgements about their management of it.
- Enhancing well-being through guided reflection on involvement in group and individual activities that are challenging and adventurous.
- Developing essential personal and social capabilities such as communication, resilience, self-confidence, leadership, teamwork, goal setting, personal autonomy and initiative

Outdoor learning can make for happier, healthier, well-rounded students – particularly for those with special educational needs (SEND) and help minimise dysregulation which in turn makes for effective classroom management.

The outdoors also provides a new setting to take on challenges, and learn life skills. Students at Grange benefit from how the outdoors relieves stress and anxiety, develops social skills and self-confidence, motivates learning across the curriculum (and beyond) and allows them to be practical, responsible and productive members of the community. At Grange we are actively working towards making the curriculum as inclusive as possible and providing a variety of opportunities that will fully prepare the students for life after Grange.