



At Willow Bank School we provide an ambitious curriculum in a nurturing and safe environment for pupils to develop:

- Independence
- Emotional intelligence and resilience
- Appropriate communication skills
- The ability to contribute to society through good citizenship skills and preparedness for work

Intent

We aim to offer our KS3 and KS4 pupils' opportunities to build on what they have learned through their experiences with their forest school curriculum during KS2 and early in KS3. Those who have joined the school later than KS2 will also have the same opportunities to achieve recognised awards such as AQA unit awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

We aim to further enhance the schools PE curriculum through giving the pupils the opportunity to take part in a wide range of outdoor adventurous activities, swimming and health related fitness sessions throughout the year.

As well as academic opportunities we aim to give our pupils many opportunities to develop their social and emotional learning (SEL) through working on skills such as building and maintain relationships with peers, building and maintaining relationships with adults, explosive and implosive anger, defiance towards adults, social self-esteem, communication skills, patience and perseverance and resilience.

Implementation

Pupils will spend much of their time offsite where they will have many opportunities to develop their independence in a range of situations including leading small groups, working under remote supervision and interacting with members of the pupils or unfamiliar adults.

Pupils will work in various environments doing activities that will often challenge them physically, mentally and socially giving them the opportunity to build on their resilience.

Pupils will experience group work, partner work and individual work where they will need to listen to instruction and follow specific guidance. They will also be given the opportunity to lead and support their peers. For example, belaying in indoor climbing or leading a section of a hill walk.

Pupils will work off site within the public domain where they will be taught things such as the countryside code, the canoeists code and the gym induction process which will all encourage pupils to care for their environment and act in appropriate ways when outside of school. Those who work towards their D of E award will spend time within their community as part of the volunteering section of the course.



Impact

Willow Bank School see's the sporting futures / outdoor education part of the curriculum as a unique and hugely beneficial part to our pupils physical, mental and social development. It gives them the opportunity to experiences a different way of learning while maintaining the opportunities to achieve recognised qualifications such as Duke of Edinburgh Awards, paddlesport awards etc. Pupils are able to develop social skills such as communication, co-operation, teamwork, resilience, patience etc.

This curriculum also supports the school's wider curriculum through working on academic skills such as:

- Reading (when using the booklet)
- Mathematics and numeracy (calculating score in archery, co-ordinates in map reading, measuring distance in map reading).
- Writing (when completing work in work booklets)
- PE and BTEC Sport knowledge (during health-related fitness).