



The curriculum outside the classroom

Broadening children and young people's educational experiences

By Simon Whitmore, Outdoor Education Officer



Increasingly, schools and other settings are using the spaces outside their classrooms as an engaging resource for implementing their curriculum, with these experiences integral to planning and teaching each day. Some of these activities will occur within the setting's own grounds, but others see children experience more beyond their local area, and each are supported by our Outdoor Education team.

This academic year, West Sussex educators have already planned over twelve-thousand visits and activities, with over four-hundred-thousand participant days spent, or planned to be spent, on activities which are increasingly used across all curriculum areas. We have seen an increase in learning about environmental education, identified in one in one hundred visits, whilst English, Science, Maths and every other curriculum area has been represented.

The benefits of Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) are being recognised in many ways, including comments in over twenty school Ofsted reports published since September. Moving forwards, we are exploring ways to ensure the impact of LOtC on outcomes for children and young people is better captured to both celebrate the work, and also to allow children and young people to play an increasing role in reviewing their learning developing their own links. I will undoubtedly be working with many of you over the forthcoming weeks and months to seek your feedback and thoughts on how we continue to ensure the growth and LOtC and further developing those wider educational links and outcomes.

For more information about Learning Outside the Classroom, please contact Simon Whitmore, Outdoor Education Officer at simon.whitmore@westsussex.gov.uk.