



LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM STATEMENT

INTENT

At Valewood, learning outside the classroom (LOTC) is an integral part of every child's learning journey. We believe that all children have the right to experience a range of activities that take place outside the classroom environment and can enhance their learning experiences. We want our children to experience learning directly and have a variety of stimulating activities that go beyond the usual classroom learning. At Valewood LOTC includes planning lessons to provide children with experiences that go beyond those you can achieve in the classroom including; making use of the school grounds to, inviting visitors into school, making use of the local environment and utilizing our local community and skills that parents and carers can offer. We have five staff who are level 3 trained Forest School practitioners and all staff are passionate about delivering learning beyond the classroom. We have a Parent Support advisor and PTA who works closely with children and parents to provide learning beyond the classroom and enable the school to work as part of a community.

IMPLEMENTATION

1. Ensuring the effectiveness of learning both inside and outside the classroom through well organised and planned LOTC opportunities and experiences.
2. The curriculum is planned to make the most of all LOTC opportunities. Teachers deliver lessons that make use of the school grounds, local environment and visitors from the community.
3. All classes take part in themed events and festivals that promote LOTC, including a yearly literacy festival with timetabled activities outside the classroom including a variety of workshops such as storytelling, music, poets, drumming, dance, circus skills and wellbeing.
4. Risk benefit assessments are used to keep children safe and plan effective activities beyond that of the classroom, this enables children to take part in new risks and challenges and nurtures their confidence.
5. All classes take part in Forest School sessions each year. Infants make use of our on-site woodland area and juniors travel by train to Ainsdale, to make use of the forest and sand dunes.
6. Teachers plan trips that make use of the local environment to enhance learning, including trips to local museums, places of worship, recycling centre, the beach, shops, natural environment, theatre trips and residential.
7. Inclusive experiences are planned for to provide a breadth of experiences for all children including those with SEN. Visitors are invited into school to work with children and enhance their learning and wellbeing.
8. LOTC activities are documented on class dojo and pictures shared with families through the dojo app, school twitter and Instagram.
9. Valewood staff including the Parent Support Advisor (PSA) and Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) work closely with children's families to provide workshops and coffee mornings that include external visitors, in order to help families to support their children's wellbeing and development.
10. The school PTA help to organise events with external providers to provide educational workshops and learning beyond the classroom experiences.

IMPACT

Making use of school grounds and local environments for LOTC will provide Valewood children with an attractive and stimulating learning environment, where they can make progress through real, hands on experiences. Learning outside the classroom is an inclusive approach that will allow a variety of experience to adapt to the different needs and learning style of each and every child. This holistic approach will allow children to develop into well-rounded citizens, enhancing their academic attainment and personal development. LOTC will also support children's health and well-being, spiritual moral, social and cultural needs.

Learning beyond the classroom provides children with new experiences, new relationships with their peers and teachers, it allows children new opportunities to work as a team and develop socially and emotionally. Children can find different things to excel at, new confidence and skills they can take back to the classroom. Learning beyond the classroom gives children the opportunity to apply skills to real experiences, which exposes them to diverse culture, enhances their learning and has great benefits to mental health and wellbeing.

Learning beyond the classroom enhances the positive relationships we have with our families and community. We make use of skills within the community and demonstrate to children how skills can be used and shared. Our commitment to learning beyond the classroom has a positive impact on children's development, progress and attitudes to learning.