



Kirkby-in-Malhamdale United VA Primary School

Achieve, Believe, Care

Outdoor Learning Curriculum Intent

Being outdoors and active is a vital part of growing up and living a healthy and fulfilled life. Outdoor learning benefits children, young people and adults alike. It engages our hearts through what we feel and the emotions we experience; our heads through what we think, see and say; and our hands through our physical experiences including how we move through the space the outdoors provides. Outdoor learning can happen anywhere - from the school grounds to local greenspace, from the high street to national parks; from outside your front door to the rest of the world. We want to encourage our pupils to appreciate and embrace the natural environment around them and to have the skills and knowledge to do this.

Being outdoors is a great boost for mental health and well-being and so our ethos around outdoor learning fosters this.

In Outdoor Learning our aims are:

- **Lifelong activity and learning**
 - **At the intrapersonal level:** strengthening self-confidence through engagement with activities and the environment leading to lifelong participation and outdoor competence. Learning through experiences and developing skills, knowledge, character, resilience, and a positive approach to risk-taking.

- **Appreciating and valuing differences**
 - **At the interpersonal level:** providing a safe and supportive setting to enhance social skills, appreciate and value difference. Making time to meet and interact with peers and role models from outside the home, school or work environment. Encouraging meaningful relationships across generations that foster tolerance, respect and kindness.

- **Sense of place and community**
 - **At the societal level:** providing space for spontaneous, in the moment events that are driven by the needs and interests of self and others. Developing a sense of place leading to greater engagement with the community and an appreciation of the opportunities available to live, learn and work in the local area.

- **Care for the worldwide environment**
 - **At the global level:** giving people a chance to 'unplug' and foster a connection that leads to respect and care for the natural world, an appreciation of biodiversity and sustainability, and pro-environmental behaviours.



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Outdoor Learning Implementation

At Kirkby Malham School, whenever we are able, we want our children to learn from and in the environment. We have extensive school grounds that enable our children to learn in, but also the location of our school allows us to use the natural backdrop of our location. We have regular outdoor learning sessions where all children in school will go outdoors in to our forest area and will have either free sessions or guided sessions. Our skills progression document provides the backbone for what we want our children to learn from the outdoors but similarly we want our children to be expressive and creative in the environment so often sessions are led by the children and they are allowed to choose their own learning.

We work closely with Yorkshire Dales National Park and also the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust to enable our children to have experiential work too.

Outdoor Learning Impact

Mental Health and wellbeing of our children in paramount and regular sessions outdoors plays a huge part in this.

Whilst the impact cannot be measured numerically we believe that without outdoor learning our curriculum offer would be poorer for our children.

We 'assess' children against the skills we want them to achieve at certain stages.

Current Strengths

Skills progression in place.

We take the children out regularly to work in the forest area (more occasions in better weather)

All children have access to outdoor clothing in school so this is not a barrier to taking them outside.

Current Weaknesses

Forest area still needs further development

Equipment needs buying for the area and to support the learning of all skills.



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Enrichment Opportunities

Links are being developed between the school and the Yorkshire Dales National Park and the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust. The children have taken part in workshops in school delivered by both groups, based around trees.

Links with our partner school are developing so that they can come and work in our forest area.