

The Outdoor Classroom

The outdoor classroom is just as it sounds, anywhere outside the classroom used for educational purposes. It could be the grounds of the school; a countryside setting such as a park; the local urban or rural environment as well as of course further a field, for example a residential experience..

Integral to the outdoor classroom is the idea of learning from real life experiences.

'Learning outside the classroom is about raising achievement through an organised, powerful approach to learning in which direct experience is of prime importance. This is not only about what we learn but importantly how and where we learn.'

Learning Outside the Classroom manifesto. 2006 DfES

'Outdoor Education is seen as a teaching approach which can enhance and integrate a broad range of core experiences across the whole curriculum - a wide variety of activities which connect learners with their environment, their community, their society and themselves. It engages and motivates learners through first hand experiences which demonstrate the relevance of knowledge, understanding and skills, and can help to underpin better attainment and achievement across the curriculum.' Taking Learning Outdoors. 2007 Learning and Teaching Scotland

The Outdoor Classroom has strong links to:

Learning
Outside the Classroom manifesto

Every child
matters

Curriculum for Excellence (Scotland)

Taking learning outdoors (Scotland)

Sustainable Schools

Oxfam's curriculum for Global Citizenship

Extended schools