



Learning Outside the Classroom

Intent, Implementation & Impact Statements

Intent

At Harnham Infant School our vision is for children to Enjoy, Explore and Learn. As part of this vision, we expand and enhance our curriculum by incorporating outdoor learning and Forest school sessions; these are part of our weekly routine. It is our aim that LOtC will uphold the high standards and expectations that our school sets for its learners and serve as a foundation to increasing their life skills and experiences throughout their time with us.

Our Forest School sessions and outdoor provision aims to;

- Build self-esteem and confidence in children.
- Build resilient, determined and independent learners.
- Develop children's personal, social and emotional development.
- Develop children's and encourage creativity.
- Encourage collaboration.
- Develop and build the ideas of risk management and risk benefit.
- Improve children's life skills and experiences.
- Enable children to gain respect for the natural environment and wildlife.
- Let children be children.

These aims will be covered with a variety of Forest Schools and outdoor learning teachings and strategies that not only seek to aid the children in their learning but also be provided in a positive, enjoyable, creative and inspiring manner that will allow them to transfer the skills and knowledge from LOtC lessons into the classroom and life outside of school.

Implementation

To ensure that this LOtC curriculum reaches the high standards of teaching and learning that we pride ourselves on at Harnham Infants, we have all received training from a previous Forest School Leader which allows us to grow and enhance our sessions outside. Discrete Forest School sessions are timetabled weekly, this is in addition to separate outdoor learning the children will engage in with their class teacher and teaching assistants (in EYFS and Year 1).

Forest school is a globally recognised teaching system that aims to meet the intent of this curriculum through holistic learning. It is through this method that we strive to provide our children with the widest range of skills and opportunities. Due to its child led nature and focus on social development, Forest School engages children in a manner that is hard to imitate in the classroom. As we know, every child is different, as are their learning habits, something that here at Harnham we recognise, encourage and utilise.

On our school grounds we are blessed with a beautiful outdoor learning environment ranging from the grounds, forest school area to the EYFS outdoor classroom 'Rainbow Class'. It is here the majority of our learning will take place but it is our aim to also expand our outdoor learning into the wider community and environment to give the children a wider range of experience and allow them to become more familiar with the world surrounding them.

Impact

Through the implementation of our robust outdoor learning curriculum, children at Harnham Infants will become more rounded and prepared learners. They will not only be more confident and resilient learners, they will become more caring and supportive peers due to the heavy focus the curriculum places on understanding and generating empathy. This will allow children to become more able to regulate their physical, social, mental and emotional health meaning the children will perform better in collaborative learning and tasks.

As children grow in confidence in their abilities in the outdoor environment, they will begin to understand, assess and manage their own risk and safety. This will allow the children to become more independent and show that life comes with not only risk but also rewards. It also teaches them what their own limits are and that they can push through them. They will see that sometimes we don't always get the desired result the first time but that it doesn't make us a failure, it helps us to grow. Outdoor learning encourages problem solving, logical thinking and self-reflection.