

Denmead Junior School

Statement of Intent, Implementation and Impact for Outdoor Learning

Position Statement

Why do we teach this? Why do we teach it in the way we do?

At Denmead Junior School we want children to have the opportunity to be able to explore and learn outside throughout the year, experiencing the seasons and changing nature around them. The children are exposed to exciting opportunities enabling them to gain understanding and respect for the natural world and all that lives within it. The Outdoor Learning programme supports the wider curriculum in subjects such as Geography, Science, PDL, DT and Art and Design. It enriches the experiences of our children and gives a broader perspective of wisdom and learning styles. We recognise the need to offer outdoor opportunities for all children and as such we have a strong ethos for practical lessons and believe that it can be used in many cross curricular areas to strengthen and deepen pupils understanding and knowledge and create real life experiences for pupils.

Outdoor Learning Intentions

Children will develop a love for 'Outdoor Learning' and will be engaged and inspired by the lessons.

They will have developed imagination and creativity through exploration of the outdoors and will have developed resilience through challenging activities and working in all weathers.

They will have enjoyed hands on, meaningful experiences learning outdoors which will add to their understanding and learning of a wide variety of curriculum areas.

They will have the opportunity to have experiences that they would not normally have within a school setting!

They also will have developed co-operation skills through teamwork.

Children will have a sympathetic understanding of nature, the world around us, and the process of growing and harvesting foods and will have contributed to the development of our school grounds.

Implementation of the Outdoor Learning programme

Each class will have two 'Outdoor Learning' session per half term. The whole school follows the same half termly theme and sessions build on knowledge from the classroom and from the previous year. Lessons are planned to support, enrich and enhance the children's in-school learning experiences. This gives every pupil the opportunity to enjoy and learn new skills in a practical sense. For example, specific outdoor skills could be; reading weather equipment, surveying trees within the school, litter picking in the local community, growing vegetables, nurturing, harvesting and cooking their own produce.

The themes are as follows:

Theme 1 - Autumn 1 - Working and managing the environment

Year 3 - Autumn Clearing and Compost Making

Year 4 - Caring for our Local Environment

Year 5 - Design within our School Grounds

Year 6 - Valuing trees within our School

Theme 2 - Autumn 2 - Animals and Habitats

Year 3 - Finding Habitats in our School

Year 4 - Classifying Information and Helping our habitats

Year 5 - Becoming Natural Scientists (studying invertebrates)

Year 6 - Dangers to Local Habitats

Theme 3 - Spring 1 - Seasons and Weather

Year 3 - Direction and Wind

Year 4 - How and why do we measure weather?

Year 5 - Micro Climates and Climate Zones

Year 6 - Clouds and Extreme Weather

Theme 4 - Spring 2 - Growing and developing a healthy lifestyle

Year 3 - Seed Safari and the Germination Process

Year 4 - What is a Carbon Footprint? (a study of where foods come from)

Year 5 - Plant Propagation and a Balanced Diet

Year 6 - Nutrition and Food Labelling

Theme 5 - Summer 1 - Social and Emotional Wellbeing

Year 3 - Self Awareness and Resilience

Year 4 - Decision Making and Positivity

Year 5 - Working Together and Forming Relationship Skills

Year 6 - Diversity and Equality

Theme 6 - Summer 2 - Foraging and Cooking

Year 3 - Broad Bean Paste and Carrot Cookies

Year 4 - Tomato and Courgette Bruschetta and Feta and Mint Dip

Year 5 - Pesto Pasta and Onion Soup

Year 6 - Potato Salad and Bokkeumbap

Impact of the Outdoor Learning Programme

To link prior learning in the classroom to the outdoors.

To deepen and revisit concepts or themes learnt within the classroom.

To retain learning experiences and inspire children to explore the learning further.

To build self-esteem and confidence in children.

To build resilient, determined and independent learners.

To develop children's personal, social and emotional development.

To develop and encourage creativity.

To encourage collaboration.

To develop and build the ideas of risk management and risk benefit.

To improve children's life skills and experiences.

To enable children to gain a respect for the natural environment and wildlife.

To transfer negative behaviours into positive ones.

Other benefits

Increased time outdoors, helps to reduce stress and anxiety

Increases Focus and Motivation

Boosts Positive Mental Health

Develops 'Healthy Active Lifestyles' through practical learning

Outdoor Learning encourages interest and enjoyment towards learning through purposeful experiences

Children will leave DJS with an interest in the world around them!