

The Ryde School

Learning Outside the Classroom Policy



Reviewed: March 2025
Next Review: February 2029

Learning Outside the Classroom Policy

Rationale

The Ryde School has an embedded Creative Curriculum that offers all its children broad and balanced learning experiences. We have achieved our Gold Award for Learning Outside the Classroom, and will continue to work towards its renewal in the coming years. This includes ensuring that pupils are offered opportunities to have first-hand experiences and to see and take part in activities outside the classroom as well as external educational providers and visitors into school. We have strong links to our local community, which we value and work to maintain and develop further, and we encourage all classes to take part in that community as well as inviting residents, local organisations and businesses into our school. Our school grounds provide rich opportunities that can engage all pupils effectively in understanding about sustainability and the environment, as well as promoting mental health and wellbeing. Visits outside of school, including residential opportunities are built into our curriculum and enhance children's learning.

Aims

- To introduce pupils to a range of new experiences
- To give opportunities to apply learning in different contexts
- To develop the Creative curriculum through using the local environment and community
- For children to develop and grow their citizenship skills
- To offer the children learning experiences at different venues nationally
- To offer pupils exciting and stimulating experiences that enthuse them in their learning and benefit their mental health and well-being.
- To develop self-esteem through providing a range of opportunities for pupils to excel
- For pupils to develop their social skills, independence and resilience through experiencing a residential activity
- For children to develop links with a local, national and international charity each year (determined by the School Council).

Learning outside the classroom - our core offer

We offer the following entitlement to all our pupils:

Entitlement 1	We offer all pupils a residential trip in Year 5
Entitlement 2	All pupils to experience at least two trips, visits or visitors each year.
Entitlement 3	Topics driving our Creative Curriculum are supported by at least one visit and/ or visitor.
Entitlement 4	All pupils take part in outdoor and adventurous activities over the year.
Entitlement 5	All pupils have opportunity to cook and prepare food.
Entitlement 6	All pupils to visit at least one local community building or venue during the year. This might include: library, The Dell, Hatfield Park.
Entitlement 7	All pupils will have opportunity to participate in at least two productions over the year. This might include assemblies, concerts or another special event.
Entitlement 8	All KS2 children have the opportunity to take part in at least one extra-curricular activity during the course of the term.
Entitlement 9	All children will develop their understanding of life in other countries. All children will have the opportunity to participate in fundraising activities for a range of charities that may include a local, a national and/or a global charity.

How we will deliver this

Residential activities

All pupils in Year 5 have the opportunity to experience a residential activity. This comprises of a four day and three night stay at a hotel in York City. The activities and venues use facilities and resources provided by quality badge holders.

In order to prepare for the residential, the Educational Visits Coordinator liaises with the Year 5 class teacher. Parents are notified at the beginning of the academic year about the proposed details for the trip and a parents' meeting is held two weeks before. The residential trip is considered to be an entitlement and all pupils take part. The trips are subsidised by money raised through the Pupil Premium, Sports Premium, local charities and budget allocation.

Trips and visits

It is expected that all year groups have at least two trips, visits or visitors during the school year. These will be included in the year groups' curriculum plans and will support and expand opportunities for teaching and learning. Trips and visits should:

- Be part of the curriculum and enhance teaching and learning
- Provide hands-on, stimulating opportunities for pupils
- Be with quality badge providers wherever possible
- Help develop social skills and self-esteem

A risk-assessment will be completed before every trip or activity (when appropriate) and a copy given to the Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC). Trip leaders need to complete the 'Educational Visit' form and have this approved by the headteacher. All venues for trips must be visited prior to the trip taking place by the trip leader. All adults accompanying a trip or visit and responsible for children must have had the appropriate police check. Other adults accompanying children on trips and visits must be in sight and sound of a Ryde School employee at all times.

Use of the school grounds

The school grounds are a resource for use by all the school. We aim to use it as frequently as possible by:

- Using the grounds for planned activities within our Creative Curriculum.
- Including the grounds as a resource to support curriculum areas e.g. for sketching in art, as a stimulus for writing activities, drama, habitats in science.
- Using it to support our Eco School initiatives e.g. gardening club, cookery, sustainability initiatives, biodiversity, recycling.
- Using the grounds for events and welcoming its use by members of the community.
- Using the grounds for our outdoor and adventurous week every summer that includes: den building, fire lighting, campfire cooking, tree climbing.
- Weekly Forest School sessions.

An Eco Schools plan ensures that our grounds are well maintained and continually developing to ensure they offer every opportunity for wild life and plants to thrive and grow whilst also offering unique opportunities for learning. The children's Eco Committee ensures this continues.

Cooking

All classes have cooking built into their curriculum. The lessons are planned to develop children's knowledge of food, hygiene and cooking techniques as they progress through the school.

Where possible, units to include at least one lesson which uses produce grown in the school grounds. Emphasis is placed upon pupils collecting the produce themselves, cleaning and preparing them.

In addition, opportunities are taken during the teaching of topics to incorporate recipes, cooking and food preparation.

The local community

When joining The Ryde School a standard form is signed by parents giving their permission for their child to go on short walks into the community. All classes are encouraged to make visits into the local community including:

- Visiting local religious and community buildings
- Taking part in local festivals and events
- Making links with local clubs
- Using local resources such as museums, Hatfield House Estate, Stanborough Lakes
- Using local facilities such as parks, swimming pools, library, post box

Participating in productions

All pupils should be involved in at least two productions annually. This might include:

- Class assembly
- Music performances
- Christmas concerts
- School productions
- Choir performances

In addition to this it is expected that pupils will contribute to assemblies through:

- Welcoming visiting speakers
- Volunteering in assemblies
- Providing feedback about sports matches and events

Pupils who belong to the school choir may have further opportunities to perform during assemblies and at local and national events.

Extra-curricular activities

A full range of after-school activities are provided on a weekly basis for KS2 children. These are led by a mixture of school staff and external clubs. The programme changes termly to reflect the seasons and the availability of staff. A timetable is circulated at the beginning of each term listing the clubs, their time and location. Our Headteacher helps put the timetable together. The range and timing of clubs takes into consideration:

- The interests of the pupils at the school
- The facilities available
- Links with the local community
- Expertise of parents and other adults associated with the school
- The needs of all groups of pupils
- The balance and range of activities available

Separate guidance is available for club leaders including health and safety, contact numbers and term dates. Attendance at clubs is monitored to ensure that clubs are accessible to all our pupils.

The school does not charge for these activities so as not to disadvantage any child on the basis of cost.

Monitoring, evaluation and Assessment

In order to monitor this entitlement year leaders will:

- Monitor Creative Curriculum plans for cross curricular opportunities and for appropriate trips, visits and visitors.
- Monitor Creative Curriculum plans for use of the school grounds.
- Monitor the uptake of cross-curricular opportunities.
- Monitor the participation of pupils in productions and special events.
- Collect evaluation forms from pupils participating in activities and use these to review activities.

It is particularly important that leaders ensure that:

- All groups in the school are given equal opportunity to participate in cross-curricular opportunities
- All pupils are fully able to participate in trips, visits and residential trips
- Learning outside the classroom experiences support and develop curriculum plans
- Learning outside the classroom experiences are evaluated for their effectiveness

Risk Assessments

- Assessments are made for each activity, trip, visitors or visits to ensure the benefits outweigh any risks.
- Care is taken to ensure all children's needs are taken into consideration and adaptations are made to itineraries where necessary.
- Risk assessments are read, discussed and approved by the EVC.
- It is expected that pre-visits will be made to venues by trip leaders.

Linked policies

These include:

- Educational visits guidance
- Creative Curriculum policies
- Eco Schools policy
- Behaviour Policy
- Charging and Remissions Policy