



## Bishopton Primary School – Outdoor Learning



Outdoor learning experiences are often remembered for a lifetime. Integrating learning and outdoor experiences, whether through play in the immediate grounds, or adventures further afield, provides relevance and depth to the curriculum in ways that are difficult to achieve indoors.

Well-constructed and well-planned outdoor learning helps develop the skills of enquiry, critical thinking and reflection necessary for our children and young people to meet the social, economic and environmental challenges of life in the 21st century. Outdoor learning connects children and young people with the natural world, with our built heritage and our culture and society, and encourages lifelong involvement and activity in Scotland's outdoors.



### Benefits of Outdoor Learning.

There are some general benefits from taking learning outside within and across curriculum areas:

- Connections are made experientially with the real world outside the classroom, helping to develop skills, knowledge and understanding in a meaningful context.
- Outdoor environments and surroundings act as a rich stimulus for creative thinking and learning. This affords opportunities for challenge, enquiry, critical thinking and reflection.
- Children and young people find that not everything outside matches the models or the textbooks. This does not mean that what they have found is 'wrong'. Instead, it develops awareness of the complexities of the real world and can help to develop critical thinking skills.

- Children and young people are able to understand the relevance of a subject taught in school to everyday life.
- Children and young people can sometimes behave differently outdoors. Quiet pupils may speak more, others become calmer and more focused when outside, especially in a natural space.
- The multi-sensory experience outdoors helps children and young people to retain knowledge more effectively. There are opportunities for pupils to learn with their whole bodies on a large scale.
- Learning in a less structured environment can provide a different learning experience from that of the classroom.
- Being outdoors can be a more relaxing learning experience for many learners.



<u>Example of activities:</u>	<u>Resources required</u>
Nature hunts Orienteering Outdoor Reading Coordinates Gardening Team Games Chalk Art Scale drawing Biodiversity Natural equations Number Squares Estimations Active games Plus many more.	Comfortable clothing  Waterproof coat and trousers.  Wellingtons or sturdy waterproof trainers  Hat, gloves and scarf or neck warmer on colder days  Sun hat and sunscreen (already applied) on warmer days  Water bottle