



Learning Outside of the Classroom Policy

1. Policy Statement

At Stanley Crook Primary School, we believe that learning outside the classroom is an essential part of a broad, balanced and enriching curriculum. Learning beyond the classroom offers unique opportunities for pupils to develop knowledge, skills, understanding, confidence and resilience while promoting physical and emotional wellbeing.

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) includes activities that take place within the school grounds, Forest School area, outdoor learning environments, local community and educational visits. These experiences support academic achievement, personal development, environmental awareness and positive attitudes towards lifelong learning.

The school is committed to providing high-quality outdoor learning opportunities that are inclusive, safe and accessible to all pupils.

2. Aims

The aims of Learning Outside the Classroom at Stanley Crook Primary School are to:

- Enhance and enrich curriculum learning.
 - Develop pupils' curiosity, confidence and resilience.
 - Foster independence and problem-solving skills.
 - Promote physical health and emotional wellbeing.
 - Encourage teamwork, communication and leadership.
 - Develop respect for the natural environment.
 - Support pupils to understand and manage risk responsibly.
 - Provide memorable learning experiences that inspire lifelong learning.
 - Promote inclusion and equality of opportunity for all pupils.
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3. Links to Other Policies

This policy should be read alongside:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Educational Visits Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- SEND Policy
- SEND Information Report
- Behaviour Policy

- Equality Information and Objectives
 - Accessibility Plan
 - Intimate Care Policy
 - Risk Assessment Procedures
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4. Curriculum Intent

Learning Outside the Classroom forms an important part of the school's curriculum offer.

Outdoor learning opportunities are planned to:

- Enhance teaching and learning across all curriculum subjects.
- Support the development of knowledge and skills identified within subject curricula.
- Promote personal development and character education.
- Develop environmental responsibility and sustainability awareness.
- Support pupils' mental health and wellbeing.
- Promote active learning and physical development.
- Provide opportunities for creativity, exploration and investigation.

Staff are encouraged to consider:

"Where is the best place for this learning to take place?"

Where appropriate, learning may take place in:

- Forest School areas
 - Outdoor classrooms
 - School grounds
 - EYFS outdoor provision
 - School field
 - Local community
 - Educational visits
 - Sporting venues
 - Museums, galleries and places of interest
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5. Benefits of Learning Outside the Classroom

Learning Outside the Classroom supports:

Physical Development

- Increased physical activity
- Development of coordination and movement skills
- Healthy lifestyle choices

Personal Development

- Confidence and self-esteem
- Independence
- Resilience
- Risk awareness
- Leadership skills

Social Development

- Communication
- Cooperation
- Teamwork
- Respect for others

Academic Development

- First-hand experiences
- Enhanced engagement
- Improved retention of learning
- Real-life application of knowledge

Environmental Awareness

- Understanding of nature and ecosystems
- Respect for living things
- Sustainable attitudes and behaviours

6. Roles and Responsibilities

Headteacher

The Headteacher will:

- Ensure this policy is implemented effectively.
- Ensure appropriate training is available.
- Monitor provision across the school.
- Ensure risk assessments are completed and reviewed.
- Ensure adequate supervision arrangements are in place.
- Ensure compliance with safeguarding and health and safety requirements.

Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Planning high-quality outdoor learning experiences.
- Following school policies and risk assessments.
- Conducting dynamic risk assessments during activities.
- Maintaining appropriate supervision.
- Ensuring that equipment is safe and used correctly.
- Reporting accidents, incidents and concerns.
- Promoting positive attitudes towards outdoor learning.

Pupils

Pupils are expected to:

- Follow instructions from adults.
- Behave responsibly.
- Respect the environment.
- Use equipment safely.
- Support the safety and wellbeing of others.

Governing Body

Governors will:

- Monitor implementation of this policy.
 - Ensure suitable arrangements for health, safety and safeguarding are maintained.
 - Monitor equality of access and provision.
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7. Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Stanley Crook Primary School is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all pupils.

No child will be excluded from participation on the grounds of:

- Age
- Disability
- Race
- Religion or belief
- Sex
- Gender reassignment
- Sexual orientation

- Pregnancy or maternity
- Socio-economic circumstances

The school will make reasonable adjustments where necessary to enable pupils with SEND, medical needs or disabilities to participate fully in outdoor learning activities.

Planning will take account of individual needs, risk assessments, medical plans and Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) where appropriate.

8. Safeguarding

All Learning Outside the Classroom activities will be conducted in accordance with the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy.

Staff will:

- Maintain appropriate supervision at all times.
- Ensure pupil registers are taken before, during and after activities where necessary.
- Follow school procedures for reporting concerns.
- Remain vigilant to safeguarding risks.
- Ensure pupils understand safe behaviours outdoors.
- Follow procedures regarding photography, mobile devices and online safety.

All adults working with pupils must meet the school's safeguarding requirements.

9. Health and Safety

The school recognises that exposure to managed risk is an important part of children's learning and development.

Learning Outside the Classroom activities will be planned using a risk-benefit approach, balancing educational value with the need to maintain safe learning environments.

The school will:

- Complete appropriate risk assessments.
- Undertake dynamic risk assessments where required.
- Provide suitable staff supervision.
- Ensure staff are competent and appropriately trained.
- Maintain first aid provision.
- Ensure equipment is inspected and maintained.

- Monitor weather conditions and environmental risks.

Activities may be modified, postponed or cancelled where safety cannot be reasonably assured.

10. Clothing and Equipment

Pupils are expected to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor activities.

Depending upon activities and weather conditions, this may include:

- Waterproof clothing
- Wellington boots
- Sun hats
- Warm outdoor clothing
- Suitable footwear

The school will communicate requirements to parents when additional clothing or equipment is required.

11. Forest School and Outdoor Learning Resources

Outdoor learning equipment is stored securely within designated school storage areas.

Staff must ensure that:

- Equipment is used only for its intended purpose.
 - Appropriate training has been received before specialist equipment is used.
 - Equipment is checked prior to use.
 - Equipment is returned and stored securely after use.
 - Damaged equipment is removed from service immediately.
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12. Educational Visits

Where Learning Outside the Classroom involves off-site activities, local visits or residential experiences, staff must follow the school's Educational Visits Policy.

Additional risk assessments and approval procedures will be completed as required.

13. Medical Needs

The school will ensure that pupils with medical conditions are able to participate safely wherever possible.

Relevant staff will have access to:

- Individual Healthcare Plans
- Emergency medication
- Medical risk assessments
- Appropriate training where required

Procedures outlined within the Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy will be followed at all times.

14. Behaviour Expectations

The expectations outlined within the school's Behaviour Policy apply equally to outdoor learning activities.

Pupils are expected to:

- Show respect for adults and peers.
 - Follow instructions promptly.
 - Treat equipment responsibly.
 - Care for the environment.
 - Act safely at all times.
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15. Monitoring and Evaluation

The effectiveness of Learning Outside the Classroom provision will be monitored through:

- Lesson observations and learning walks
- Curriculum monitoring
- Pupil voice
- Staff feedback
- Educational visit evaluations
- Forest School monitoring
- Governor visits where appropriate

Findings will be used to improve practice and ensure high-quality learning experiences for all pupils.

16. Review of Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if:

- National guidance changes.
 - Local authority guidance changes.
 - School procedures change.
 - Significant incidents indicate the need for review.
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Appendix 1: General Learning Outside the Classroom Risk Assessment

Hazard	Control Measures
Fire and hot equipment	Trained staff, fire safety procedures, burns kit, water supply
Tool use	Staff supervision, training, age-appropriate equipment
Slips, trips and falls	Site checks, appropriate footwear, supervision
Tree climbing and rope activities	Designated areas, supervision, dynamic assessment
Extreme weather	Weather monitoring, suitable clothing, activity modification
Allergies and medical needs	Healthcare plans, medication available, trained staff
Insect bites and stings	Risk assessment, first aid arrangements
Plants, fungi and natural materials	Teaching of safe handling practices
Lost or separated child	Registers, supervision and emergency procedures
Litter and hazardous objects	Area checks before activities
Manual handling	Appropriate lifting techniques and supervision
Water hazards	Exclusion zones and additional controls where required

Signed.....M.Norris (Headteacher)

Date: September 2026

Review date : September 2027