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# Millfields First School Learning Outside the Classroom Policy

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## Introduction

This policy should be read in conjunction with:-

- Off Site Educational Visits Policy
- Equal Opportunites Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Whole School Curriculum – Educating the Whole Child Policy (Teaching and Learning)
- Specific curriculum policies

The Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Coordinator is Debbie Hughes. The Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) is Sharon Worrall.

Off-site visits are Learning Outside the Classroom activities arranged by our school which take place outside the school grounds. Learning Outside the Classroom includes off-site visits and the educational use of the school grounds.

The council for LOtC defines Learning Outside the Classroom as:

‘The use of places other than the classroom for teaching and learning.’

‘These, often the most memorable learning experiences, help us to make sense of the world around us by making links between feelings and learning. They stay with us into adulthood and affect our behaviour, lifestyle and work. They influence our values and the decisions we make. They allow us to transfer learning experienced outside to the classroom and vice versa’.

## Our LOtC mission statement:

At Millfields Learning Outside the Classroom contributes to THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WHOLE CHILD. It is our mission to encourage our children to:-

- Explore outside and make connections with all aspects of their learning
- Ask and answer questions of both the built and natural world and reach their own conclusions
- Show care and respect for all things
- Be inspired and motivated by the wonder of our world

At Millfields First School we believe that Learning Outside the Classroom can supplement and enrich the curriculum of our school by providing experiences which would otherwise be impossible.

All Learning Outside the Classroom experiences serve an educational purpose, enhancing and enriching our children’s learning. Real-world learning brings the benefits of formal and informal education together and reinforces meaningful learning through acquiring knowledge and skills through real-life, practical or hands-on activities.

There are numerous benefits to Learning Outside the Classroom for all our children, including those with Special Educational Needs, such as:

- Consolidating learning through real life, practical activities
- Aiding transition to new places and situations
- Increasing motivation and willingness to learn
- Developing confidence and self-awareness
- Developing social and communication skills
- Meeting different challenges and becoming more independent
- Demonstrating achievement – through awards, displays and presentations

Work that takes place outside of the classroom can provide a very powerful means of developing learning in all curriculum areas, and can so raise attainment.

## Aims

- To design the curriculum so that it includes progressive learning experiences both inside and outside the classroom
- To deliver a wide range of progressive and frequent Learning Outside the Classroom activities for all our children
- Promote the independence of our children as learners, and enable them to grow and develop in new learning environments.
- To improve the effectiveness of Learning Outside the Classroom (e.g. through planning and evaluation of outcomes for our children)

Learning outside the classroom is an integral part of school life at Millfields and includes learning and recreational activities that involves taking the children away from their usual operational base such as:

- The school's own grounds
- The local environment
- Places further afield e.g. visits to local libraries, theatres and museums etc.
- Residential visits

### Strategies for successful Learning Outside the Classroom

- Planning and preparation to ensure that all activities support in school learning
- Consideration of differentiation to ensure the needs of all our children are met
- Assessment opportunities
- Risk Management
- Use of the school grounds at every opportunity to support in class learning

Policy Date: June 2015

Date for review: June 2017