

## OUTDOOR LEARNING

### **Intent**

At Oak Lodge, we want all of our children to have regular opportunities to experience learning outside. As part of this vision, we have decided to expand and enhance the breadth of our curriculum by incorporating a designated outdoor learning curriculum that will become part of our routine (during PPA rota). It is our aim that this will uphold the high standards and expectations that our school sets for its pupils and serve as a cornerstone to increasing their life skills and experiential learning throughout their primary school education.

The primary aims of this curriculum will be:

- 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 children's 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.

These aims will be covered with a variety of outdoor learning teachings and strategies that not only seek to aid the children in their learning but also be provided in a positive, enjoyable, creative and inspiring manner that will allow them to transfer the skills and knowledge from the Outdoor Learning lessons into the classroom and life outside of school.

### **Implementation**

To ensure that this Outdoor Learning curriculum reaches the high standards of teaching and learning that we pride ourselves on at Oak Lodge, we have implemented a progressive curriculum that begins in Reception and continues and grows until its culmination, when children leave in Year 6. Outdoor learning lessons will be timetabled all year around as part of the PPA rota.

At Oak Lodge, we are blessed with a beautiful outdoors learning environment ranging from the woodland area to a pond area and a large field. It is here the majority of the learning will take place but it is our aim to also expand our outdoor learning into the wider community and environment to give the children a wider range of experience and allow them to become more familiar with the world surrounding them. (Other schools within our trust have different outdoor areas e.g. A river runs through another school site that is walkable from Oak Lodge)

### **Impact**

After the implementation of this robust outdoor learning curriculum, children at Oak Lodge will become more well rounded and prepared learners and individuals. They will not only be more confident and resilient learners, they will become more caring and supportive peers due to the heavy focus the curriculum places on understanding and generating empathy. This will allow children to become more able to regulate their social, mental, emotional and spiritual health meaning the children to perform better in collaborative learning and tasks, arming them with the skills necessary to improve themselves in their schooling career and life in the wider world.

As children grow in confidence in their abilities in the outdoor environment, they will begin to understand, assess and manage their own risk and safety. This will allow the children to become more independent and show them that life comes with not only risk but also rewards. It also teaches them what their own limits are and that they can push through them. They will see that sometimes we don't always get the desired result the first time but that doesn't make us a failure, it helps us to grow, forcing us to try again in a different way. It encourages problem solving logical thinking and self-reflection and evaluation but most of all the pupils will see that mistakes aren't failures; they are a part of learning.