



Tuition, Medical and Behaviour Support Service

Curriculum Policy Outdoor Education

Reviewed:	October 2023
Next Review:	September 2024
Responsibility:	James Maclachlan

Outdoor Education includes a range of activities, organised in a cyclic programme. Pupils may experience problem solving, team building, improvised raft building, rope exercises, orienteering, camp craft, shelter building, camp cooking and social inclusion events.

Outdoor Education has many health benefits, particularly for young people who may otherwise be reluctant to participate in exercise. Pupils learn about the health and safety issues of personal care and caring for others in a variety of outdoor environments. Pupils enjoy the range of activities provided, and achieve confidence and skill, as well as assessed awards. Pupils learn to make a positive contribution as part of a team. There are cross-curricular links with geography, maths, science and PE. Pupils also engage with activities directly linked to PSHE and Enterprise. Outdoor Education helps to develop transferable skills valued by prospective employers, and pupils may follow personal interest into FE courses linked to health, leisure and sport.

We have also established links with Arthog Outreach in Wellington and are hoping to develop a continued programme with Arthog through all centres, including possible residential experiences.

The cycle track and cycle facilities at Sundorne Sports Village are also now being used by SEC and HAG, with the aim of developing this link and getting other centres to participate in this area of development.

Aims

- To stimulate pupils to establish a positive attitude to themselves and their peers
- To stimulate confidence and skill levels to enable pupils to partake in the programme and encourage them to accept the challenge of new opportunities, both within the Outdoor Education Programme and in their broader lives.
- To gain relevant AQA awards, first aid and the John Muir award.

Objectives

- To encourage a positive attitude to learning through success
- To challenge attitude and behaviour through a variety of activities and new skills
- To explore different ways of learning
- To develop strategies to cope with challenge, both on a personal and environmental level
- To foster an understanding of the natural environment.
- To develop progression in skill based activities, working towards formal awards
- To encourage a positive and supportive interaction between member groups
- To encourage students to continue activities outside centre hours, through clubs, work experience and youth provision etc

Methodology

Due to the nature of Outdoor Education a flexible approach is required. The students are introduced to a carousel of activities over a half term period. The following half term a number of activities are re-visited thus enabling progression. The students are encouraged to play an important role in the development of the programme. This gives opportunity to develop shared ownership.

The sessions are generally run in small groups and allow for individual coaching as well as group work. All students are encouraged to participate and positive group and individual choices are reinforced.

The transferral of skills and experiences to other settings is encouraged by discussion both at group and individual levels.

Planning

Outdoor Education is based on Education Centre provision for health and safety reasons. TMBSS aims to provide Outdoor Education at each of the secondary Centres.

The centre staff plan the content of each programme in conjunction with the Centre Co-ordinator and pupil group, and is dependent on pupils' previous experience, staffing, weather conditions and availability of activities. Account is taken of pupils' individual needs, particularly medical needs. The experiences are recorded through photographs, record books, progress folders etc, and evidence gathered towards individual awards.

Sessions may change due to many variables, not least the environment. The Aims and Objectives remain constant.

Assessment

Assessments are usually practical with some verbal questioning. Records may be kept through photography, video and pupil log books.

Pupils may gain awards through the British Canoeing Awards, the John Muir Awards, Shropshire County Council Land Based Activities scheme and National Navigation Award Scheme.

Younger pupils may follow age appropriate assessments such as British Canoeing Paddlepower and Young Navigator Star.

The John Muir Award is assessed through the logbook issued by the John Muir Trust.

Shropshire County Council Land Based Activities Scheme is continual assessment by logged activity and ongoing practical assessment. This scheme was developed by TMBSS.

The British Canoeing awards follow the nationally recognised scheme and assessment.

Pupils participating in the Forest Schools Programme can gain OCN Bushcraft Awards or AQA awards

Additional awards may be offered as appropriate.

Health & Safety

All activities are run adhering to Shropshire Council guidelines and regulations for outdoor education and off site activities through the Evisits system. Staff and outside providers running activities are required to hold the relevant qualification for their activity and evidence of qualification should be presented to the TMBSS Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC) before running an activity. A number of activities will require notification to the Shropshire Council Advisor for Outdoor Education, this should be done after consulting the EVC. Staff organising activities should seek notification via the service EVC and head teacher.

Activities are to be run using the most recent guidance from the relevant National Governing Body (NGB) for that activity that is relevant to the staff or providers level of qualification. It is essential that staff remain updated with current best practice and are required to attend NGB courses to maintain their skill level.

We are looking this academic year to audit our activities through Arthog Outreach.

Resources

All safety equipment and specialist resources are provided by the session provider. Non-specific resources are provided by the Education Centre. A camera and means of recording are most commonly provided by the Centre.

Personal protection equipment is regularly inspected by the member of staff holding the relevant NGB award in that activity and any defects reported to EVC and head teacher.