



Outdoor Learning & The Curriculum for Excellence

The National guidance document: 'Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning' produced by Education Scotland states: **'the journey through education for any child in Scotland must include opportunities for a series of planned, quality outdoor learning experiences'**.

Engaging in Outdoor Learning enables **'our children and young people to be successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens'**, ... which lies at the heart of the Curriculum for Excellence.

The Curriculum for Excellence also states that: 'Outdoor Learning should have an 'integral role ... in the new curriculum', urging teachers to **'use the outdoor environment to provide imaginative learning and teaching which is relevant, lively and motivating'** (HMIE, Improving Scottish Education).

Outdoor learning contributes to delivering the Scottish Government's overarching strategic objectives towards 'creating a more successful country':

Smarter

Outdoor learning encourages learners to understand the interplay and relationship between curriculum areas. This awareness promotes lifelong learning and develops critical thinking skills.

Healthier

Learning outdoors can lead to lifelong recreation. Activities such as walking and cycling which are ideal for physical and emotional wellbeing contribute to a healthier Scotland. Scots have a reputation for adventure activities such as mountaineering and have achieved international sporting success in canoeing, sailing and skiing.

Safer and stronger

Outdoor learning activities span social divisions and can help build stronger communities. Some organisations have therapeutic programmes where outdoor learning plays a central role. Children and young people have opportunities to develop skills to assess and manage risk when making decisions.

Greener

Frequent and regular outdoor learning encourages children and young people to engage with the natural and built heritage. Scotland's countryside and urban areas provide ideal settings for children and young people to understand the global significance of sustainability issues and inform personal decisions that contribute towards a greener Scotland.

Wealthier and fairer

The outdoors provides excellent opportunities to use a wide range of skills and abilities not always visible in the classroom. Becoming aware of such skills can fundamentally change personal, peer and staff perceptions and lead to profound changes in life expectations and success.

This above is taken directly from: 'Curriculum for Excellence through Outdoor Learning'.
(<https://education.gov.scot/documents/cfe-through-outdoor-learning.pdf>)