

Outdoor Learning Award framework



The Outdoor Learning Award contains eight benchmarks of good practice. Choose whether to work towards four benchmarks (Silver) or all eight benchmarks (Gold) and then select three intentions from each benchmark from the list below...

Promote positive attitudes around outdoor learning.

INTENTIONS

- Involve pupils in developing a whole-school mission statement for outdoor learning and promote it around the school.
- Run pupil awareness campaigns on the benefits of outdoor learning.
- Adopt a common, positive language about outdoor learning across the school.
- Share outdoor learning initiatives and updates across media platforms.
- Ensure outdoor learning outcomes are discussed in leadership meetings and reported in staff meetings and governor briefings.
- Organise an outdoor learning day or event to promote outdoor learning to the whole school.

Make room in the curriculum for outdoor learning.

INTENTIONS

- Appoint an outdoor learning curriculum lead.
- Embed outdoor activities in relevant areas of learning to enhance pupil outcomes.
- Ensure there is dedicated space on each year group's timetable for outdoor learning.
- Produce a curriculum plan indicating what outdoor learning will take place and when.
- Ensure cross-curricular links are made and documented to show their effectiveness.
- Ensure regular opportunities for fieldwork are available across subjects.

Offer a range of extracurricular outdoor learning opportunities.

INTENTIONS

- Offer outdoor learning activities at breaktimes and lunchtimes.
- Offer outdoor clubs for special interest groups.
- Arrange regular outdoor team-building activities to enhance PSHE skills.
- Provide regular opportunities for adventurous activities.
- Offer regular residential outdoor learning opportunities.
- Engage in local, national and international events/projects/programmes that are linked to outdoor learning.

Use outdoor space and resources effectively.

INTENTIONS

- Plan and timetable outdoor space so that it is available throughout the academic year.
- Explore and utilise appropriate local spaces for regular outdoor learning.
- Ensure outdoor resources are accessible for all.
- Ensure pupils have weather-appropriate clothing all year round.
- Create an appropriate transition space to help transfer between indoor and outdoor areas.
- Demonstrate a responsible and sustainable use of the school's space and resources.

Ensure the safe use of outdoor space and resources.

INTENTIONS

- Involve pupils in encouraging everyone to use outdoor space and resources safely.
- Ensure regular safety checks of resources and equipment take place.
- Provide regular safety briefings for pupils on identified hazards.
- Ensure relevant staff and pupils are trained in appropriate first aid.
- Ensure staff and pupils are aware of emergency procedures.
- Assess and record the safety of all pupils through regular risk-benefit analysis assessments.

Provide staff with training opportunities for outdoor learning.

INTENTIONS

- Survey staff to identify training gaps and provide relevant training opportunities.
- Encourage staff to share their learning and expertise, and to learn from other schools and organisations in this way.
- Provide a template for staff to complete as part of their outdoor learning development.
- Ensure outdoor learning features as a key strand on performance management schedules for all relevant staff.
- Review the effectiveness and impact of staff training on outdoor learning and implement any findings.
- Organise external visits and visits to other schools/partners to share practice and ideas.

Ensure pupils are involved and engaged with outdoor learning.

INTENTIONS

- Consult pupils regularly about outdoor learning and implement any findings.
- Appoint pupil 'ambassadors' to promote and inspire outdoor learning.
- Ensure all pupils have access to outdoor learning.
- Design a logo and motto that reflects pupils' attitudes towards outdoor learning.
- Encourage pupils to contribute to others' outdoor learning experiences.
- Guarantee outdoor learning is used neither as a reward or a sanction.

Engage parents with outdoor learning.

INTENTIONS

- Survey parents on attitudes towards outdoor learning and review and implement any findings.
- Invite parents/grandparents with appropriate skills and interests to volunteer for outdoor learning events.
- Provide a calendar of outdoor learning events that parents can get involved with.
- Involve parents with fundraising to improve resources and provision.
- Ensure outdoor learning updates are shared regularly in parent communications.
- Run awareness campaigns on the benefits of outdoor learning for parents.



Find out how the **Outdoor Learning Award** can help bring these benefits to your school, email contact@schoolimpactawards.co.uk

