



Intent

At Newlands Junior School, we have begun a journey to give our children the time and space to use the outdoors as a classroom across the breadth of our curriculum. We will develop, year on year, our ability to offer our children quality outdoor provisions as we invest time, resources and energy into establishing outdoor learning as an integral part of all our children's learning at Newlands Junior School.

We thoroughly believe that outdoor learning is important for all children to experience as part of their journey and education at Newlands. Our key aims of outdoor learning include;

- To build self-esteem and confidence
- To develop social and emotional resilience and independence
- To encourage collaboration and improve children's life skills and experiences
- To support wellbeing and connections to nature and the outdoor environment

Implementation

To ensure that our outdoor learning curriculum reaches and supplements the breadth of the curriculum for each child, we have invested time and resources into ensuring that this begins in year 3 and continues until children depart us in year 6. Each year group benefits from timetabled outdoor learning opportunities each half term and across the entirety of the subject areas taught. Children will have access to the school grounds, including a wooded garden, with the aim to expand our learning into the wider community and environment to give children a range of opportunities that differ from the traditional classroom environment. Children are also given the opportunity to explore the wider world around them through a range of different opportunities such as school visits to outdoor education centres and an overnight residential experience in year 6.

Impact

After the implementation of the outdoor learning curriculum, children at Newlands will become much more well-rounded and prepared as learners and as individuals for new and challenging prospects that come their way. Not only will confidence and resilience be built, but a sense of pride and compassion will be fostered and placed at the heart of every endeavour that our children decide to undertake. This will allow our children to understand and regulate their social, mental, emotional and spiritual health allowing them to perform better in stressful circumstances and give them the tools they may require to improve themselves both inside and outside of school.

As our children grow in confidence of their abilities in the outdoor opportunities that we provide for them, they will begin to and then maintain a sound understanding of how to assess and manage their own environment. Our outdoor curriculum teaches children to push through their perceived limits and encourage such strategies as problem solving, logical thinking, self-reflection and evaluation to make them aware that learning is not merely confined to the classroom environment.