

# Learning Outside the Classroom

## at

### Bramcote Hills Primary School

**Our School Mission is to be:**

- \* A Learning School
- \* An Inclusive School
- \* An Open School
- \* A Happy and Healthy School
- \* A Supportive School
- \* A Sustainable School
- \* An Effective School

**Developing learners who value:**

- \* Themselves - as unique human beings
- \* Others – for themselves
- \* Relationships – within and outside the family
- \* The environment – natural and built
- \* Truth, freedom, justice, human rights, the rule of law
- \* Collective effort for the common good.

**Creating a school which aims** to bring out the best in all our pupils, by providing an education of the highest quality.

At BHPS we endorse the belief that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of their learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

'Learning Outside the Classroom' is integral to our planning because we believe that it adds enormous value to classroom learning, helping to provide a deeper understanding of difficult concepts and to develop life skills.

At BHPS we place a high value on the opportunities for learning that can take place outside the classroom, including:

- activities in all aspects of the curriculum including sports, within our own building, grounds and immediate area, often with outside expert providers
- participation in assemblies, talent shows, dramatic productions, concerts and special events in school and the local area
- involvement in clubs, musical groups and sporting activities and competitions held during break-times and before or after the end of the school day
- educational visits organised within the school day
- residential visits that take place during the school week
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Many of the learning experiences at BHPS are centred around, or include, outside activities and visits. Planning teams ensure that these are wide ranging, relevant and kept under review. Below are a few examples, but these are continually being added to and modified:

#### Foundation

Outdoor Area used extensively – creating imagination lands  
Visits eg Markeaton Park, Manor Farm linked to topics such as Mini-Monsters / Bob the Builder  
Golden Time outdoor activities with year 1 children,  
Treasure hunts, magic water/ chalking/artwork, Eco work, planting,  
Outdoor activities linked to literacy / numeracy

<b>Year 1 / 2</b>	<p>Local area visits eg Bramcote playground, Bramcote Farm shop, Trowell Garden Centre; Bramcote Church</p> <p>Day trips eg Sudbury Hall, Twycross Zoo, Magna Science, Newstead Abbey, Green's Windmill</p> <p>Golden Time outdoor activities with Year 1 children</p> <p>Outdoor activities eg playground rhymes, numeracy and science investigations and observation, drama games, Easter egg hunt, team games, orienteering, map making, traffic survey, observational drawings sports days,</p> <p>The Big Sleepover on BHPS site -</p>
<b>Year 3 / 4</b>	<p>Residential eg Castleton Youth hostel overnight stay; Caythorpe PGL activity centre 2-night stay</p> <p>Day trips eg Hardwick Hall, Nottingham; Pantomime, Tennis Centre, National Space Centre,</p> <p>Local trips eg Study of Bramcote area – exploring the village and park; picnics in the park.</p>
<b>Year 5</b>	<p>Residential eg Ironbridge YHA</p> <p>Day trips eg Castleton, Attenborough Nature Reserve, pilgrimage to Southwell Minster, study of Beeston,</p> <p>Outdoor activities linked to topics (eg rivers / deposition)</p>
<b>Year 6</b>	<p>Residential at Whitby (2 nights) studying coastal geography, fossils, and English Heritage sites</p> <p>Day trips eg Bestwood Park, Balloon Woods Centre, Safety Zone</p> <p>Trip to Mega Bowl</p>

We are continuing to explore ways in which our outdoor learning areas may be developed and improved (eg site development to include improved play items and outdoor science and wild areas). Much of the decision making is guided by the children, through the School Council. In addition, many of our clubs and extra-curricular activities are held out of doors, such as ECO and Gardening Club as well as a wide range of sporting activities.

### **Inclusive Provision**

Equal and full access for all learners to learning outside the classroom is monitored annually by the Inclusion Manager.

Wherever possible, teaching staff will try to ensure that provision can be accessed by all pupils or suitable alternatives agreed. For example - no child is excluded from an activity because of financial considerations and children with behaviour or educational needs are given extra support.

Some activities, such as choir, are held during school hours in order to encourage a gender balance.

For a few children, residential visits away from home are problematic. These children are encouraged to participate and partial involvement catered for if necessary (ie visiting for the day). If not able to attend, children are provided with positive experiences in school.

For a very limited number of activities, there may sometimes be a selection process as part of our support for gifted or talented children (e.g choir for performances, school band and sports teams) but these are the exception, rather than the rule.

### **Evaluating Learning Outside the Classroom**

Children are routinely encouraged to reflect on their experiences, though the form this takes is as creative and interesting as possible, so that their overall enjoyment is not diminished.

Parental helpers and teaching staff provide critical feedback to the Visits' Co-ordinator to help inform future planning.

Many of the most successful visits are repeated annually for different cohorts, with appropriate modifications, and teachers frequently investigate new destinations and activities in order to enhance learning.

**Relevant policies include our:**

**A Curriculum Enrichment Policy (ACE Policy)**

Promoting Healthy Living at BHPS

Visits Policy

BHPS ECO Code