

St. Nicholas Outdoor Learning at St Nicholas

Curriculum Intent

(What do we want for the children at St Nicholas?)

At St Nicholas School we believe that high quality Outdoor learning lessons will inspire students by giving them an understanding and respect for the natural world and all that lives within it. We will utilise all outdoor spaces within the school and in the local environment (Banstead Woods, Morden Park). Outdoor Learning can be used in many cross curricular areas to strengthen and deepen pupils understanding and knowledge by creating real life, hands-on experiences. We want all children to have the opportunity to be able to explore and interact with the outdoor environment throughout the year, experiencing the seasons and changing nature around them. Through participating in Outdoor learning, pupils will gain confidence, increased selfesteem and a heightened level of wellbeing.

Curriculum Implementation

(How will we achieve this for our pupils?)

At St Nicholas School, Outdoor Learning has an important role teaching child about the natural world around them. With strong cross-curricular links across the curriculum, especially with science and design and technology we ensure all aspects, knowledge and skills are being taught across all year groups and key stages throughout the year. All classes have half a term of consecutive lessons in the Outdoor learning Garden each term, allowing them to experience the outdoors and how it changes across the seasons.

Children have opportunities to learn specific outdoor skills. For example, growing their own produce, establishing habitats for local wildlife, respect for the environment, themselves and others and working within safe boundaries. Children will be encouraged to use all their senses to explore natural materials and their immediate environment. Pupils will be provided with appropriate outdoor clothing to ensure they are able to access the space in all types of weather.

With the addition of our Sensory Garden, pupils will be able to feel safe and comfortable in exploring their senses in an outdoor environment without feeling overwhelmed. The sensory garden will provide a relaxing environment, while also being a great way to stimulate the senses. The garden is a fun educational tool that allows them to explore and learn about their senses and nature.

Outdoor learning takes place on our school grounds in designated areas including Outdoor learning Garden, Sensory Garden and school field, as well as the local woods and surrounding area led by class teacher, HLTA's or TA's.

Curriculum Impact

(How will we know if we have achieved this?)

By the end of KS2 all children will have enjoyed hands on experience learning outdoor which will add to their knowledge and understanding of a range of curriculum areas. They will have developed imagination, appreciation and creativity through exploration of the outdoors and will have developed resilience through challenging activities and working in all weathers throughout the seasons. They also will have developed co-operation skills through team work and feel more confident sharing their ideas in a low-pressure environment. Pupils will have a good understanding of nature, the world around us, growing plants and vegetables, caring for local wildlife and will have contributed to the development of our school grounds and looking after the world around us. The impact will be measured by the extent that children at St Nicholas are equipped with skills and knowledge and understanding of the natural world that will enhance their life as an adult in the wider world.