

‘Making the Case’

Information for Senior Management about the benefits of Out of Classroom Learning.

Developing successful learners:

- outdoor learning can have a positive impact on **long term memory** by reinforcing the link between cognitive and affective learning ⁽¹⁾
- substantial evidence that in outdoor learning learners develop their **knowledge** and **skills** in ways that add value to their everyday experiences in the classroom ⁽²⁾
- substantial evidence that outdoor learning has the potential to raise **attainment** and improve attitudes towards the environment ⁽³⁾
- evidence that outdoor learning fosters the development of specific academic skills, as well as improved **engagement, achievement** and **stronger motivation to learn** ⁽³⁾
- much good **quality** teaching and learning in geography⁽⁴⁾ and science (5) is through work based outside the classroom
- a significant volume of research demonstrates that out of school learning activities enhance student development in terms of cognitive, affective and social outcomes ⁽⁶⁾

Developing confident individuals:

- substantial evidence that outdoor learning can impact positively on children and young people’s **attitudes, beliefs** and **self-perceptions** - independence, confidence, self-esteem, personal effectiveness, coping strategies ⁽³⁾
- examples of outdoor learning programmes yielding benefits in the promotion of positive behaviour and improved **physical self image and fitness** ⁽³⁾
- evidence of students taking **leadership roles** within their teams when they would not be expected to in school ⁽⁷⁾

Developing responsible citizens:

- renewed **pride in community** with greater sense of place, of belonging and responsibility ⁽³⁾
- significant evidence of the effect of outdoor learning on **social development** and greater **community involvement** ⁽³⁾
- pupils develop more positive **relationships** with each other, with their teachers and with the wider community ⁽⁷⁾

- outdoor learning increases knowledge and understanding of the natural world and environmental systems and processes, and that this knowledge and associated affective development are related to **responsible attitudes to the environment**.⁽¹⁾
 - students accounts demonstrate that outdoor learning and the community experiences touched their **values and attitudes** so providing a context in which to discuss sustainability issues⁽¹⁰⁾
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References:

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