



## **Outdoor Learning at Gaskell Primary School**

### **Intent:**

To provide a positive experience of working, learning, playing and enjoying being outdoors. They will learn to be resilient, overcome challenges, develop their creativity and become literate in nature. They will show respect for the outdoor environment. Through activities they will be mindful in, and grateful of the world around them and their impact in and on it.

### **Why do children at Gaskell Primary School need Outdoor Learning?**

By experiencing learning in Outdoor settings, our children will understand how they can work with the natural world. They need to know that it is possible to be outdoors in all kinds of weathers and in different outdoor spaces. It can provide a safe but challenging environment where children see the woods, hills, rivers and canals as places to use for physical recreation and mindfulness. They will learn the language that is pertinent to the outdoor environment and outdoor activities. Outdoor Education, when off-site, also gives opportunities to interact with other members of society in shared spaces.

### **What are the aims for the Outdoor Learning Curriculum?**

- To be able to use the language of nature to describe trees, animals, environments and activities.
- To be able to experience a range of physical and practical activities.
- To be able to improve and sustain activity levels for a longer period of time outdoors.
- To provide opportunities to visit the environment around their hometown on Bolton.
- Residential trips visit The Lake District and Wales.

### **What values and drivers underpin the current curriculum content?**

At Gaskell we have key values and drivers which support our children *'to become successful citizens in today and tomorrow's world'*. In Outdoor Learning we show:

**Happiness:** We are aware of how exercise and being immersed in nature can make us happy.

**Empathy:** We have an understanding of how it feels to be wet, cold, hot, tired and how it affects us and others.

**Ambition:** We aspire to have a life-long love of being active in 'The Outdoors'.

**Respect:** We respect the environment around us so others can enjoy.



**Resilience:** We appreciate that Outdoor Activities, whether creative or physical can be challenging but we continue to work hard to improve them.

**Tolerance:** We respect that other people might have different reactions to being outdoors

**Self-confidence:** We are brave and take acceptable risks.

In Outdoor Learning we are:

**Healthy Pioneers:** Outdoor Learning helps us to develop physically and mentally. Outdoor Learning teaches us skills and knowledge that will make us successful in today's world.

**World Citizens:** Our children will develop an understanding about where they live and the wider world. They will know how their human and physical environment have grown and changed over time.

**Avid Adventurers:** We are passionate that children are excited about the real world. We want them to know that physical activity can exist outside school, their home and local community. There is a world waiting to be explored which we can do with residential trips to other counties. We will allow them to manage risk-taking by having lots of fun and experiencing a little danger.

**Confident Communicators:** In Outdoor Learning communication is highly valued. Language is used to describe what the children can see and feel and pupils can communicate verbally, non-verbally and through creative activities with others. We will give the children opportunities to think critically by making choices in what they play, make and cook.

**Creative Minds:** Individuality and self-expression is promoted through Outdoor Learning through creative activities such as songs, artwork, craftwork and role play. Children will be developing resilience, resourcefulness and risk taking when faced with more challenging tasks.

#### **How are British Values taught through Outdoor Learning?**

British values, including those of mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs are embedded in the OL curriculum. We promote tolerance through different people's ideas, creative responses and understanding of different cultures



within OL. Pupils have the opportunity to work independently and as a team to build resilience and self-belief through tasks, sharing ideas and resources, peer assessment and supporting each other

### **Outdoor Learning Intent, Implementation and Impact**

#### **Why has the specific content knowledge been selected? Why is it taught in the order that it is?**

The Outdoor Learning Curriculum is used to support the National Curriculum subject through activities that support current class topics. It is also used to develop skills more pertinent to outdoor activities such as map reading, fire building and environment experience and exploration. Some Outdoor and Adventurous Activities are taught on Residential trips. The Forest School programme is being built into Early Years and Key Stage 2. This targets specific small groups

#### **How is Outdoor Learning taught at Gaskell Primary School?**

All classes have free access to the outdoor environment at Gaskell and can plan their own activities for outside. The classes are also timetabled to have termly sessions with the Outdoor Learning Lead Teacher where there is more opportunity to work off-site.

#### **What is the impact?**

We ensure that children at our school are equipped with natural literacy that will enable them to be ready to understand and enjoy wider environment as they grow older. Their understanding of how nature can play a huge role in well-being will begin to give them a healthier lifestyle and promote activity beyond school.