



Outdoor Learning Framework



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| Review date: | July 2024 |
| Review date: | |
| Review date | |

Statement of Intent

Cann Bridge School strives to develop a whole-school culture of using the outdoors as a tool for learning as a curriculum thread across the Pathways to Independence Curriculum. Outdoor Learning is the vehicle which develops a holistic approach that aims to integrate the outdoors into all spheres of learning.

Through outdoor learning, learners can develop various essential skills, from problem-solving and critical thinking to confidence and resilience with opportunities to embed learned skills within the wider environment. They can connect with the environment, learn about the natural world, and engage in hands-on activities that foster their creativity and curiosity.

Learning outdoors can also support learners' communication skills, develop both gross and fine motor skills and improve mobility and coordination. Having regular access to outdoor learning is a fun way to expend energy and can help reduce tension and anxiety.

Our aims are:

- To support teachers to use outdoor spaces as a vehicle for learning across all curriculum areas to enhance learners' experiences
- To ensure that outdoor learning environments have appropriate resources, are safe and appealing to learners
- To offer learning blocks of exploring and making in the Forest School area to specific learners when requested by their teacher. This learning will be designed to suit the need of the individual learner. For example; to meet a sensory need, develop confidence or build positive relationships.

Implementation

This policy should be read in conjunction with subject policies.

Outdoor Learning in EYFS

The outdoor environment is used across the day within the continuous provision. It is also delivered through sessions based in the forest school area once a week. Learners are supported to take risks while participating in a range of nature-based activities. Learners are given the time required to explore the environment and develop their curiosity and interest in the natural world. Learners develop confidence in exploring environments outside of the classroom, and in following transition supports.

Outdoor Learning in KS1, KS2, KS3

Learners use outdoor learning spaces to enhance their knowledge and skills across a range of curriculum areas. For example; A learning focus of 'Time', may include learners drawing a life-size clock with chalks on the playground where learners become the minute and hour hand, or, learners may set up a sundial and record the time throughout the day.

Outdoor Learning in KS4 & 5

At Key Stage 4 & 5, outdoor learning is also used to develop the Preparation for Adulthood skills; for example, gardening and grow produce, develop skills in healthy living and where their food comes from and independent living tasks such as; cleaning windows and washing cars.

Lower School Playground

Learners in EYFS and Key Stage 1 have free flow access between their classroom outside learning areas at specific playtimes. The lower school playground has a painted road with environmental signage, bridges and scooters.

Upper School Playground

Learners have access to range of equipment that enhances and supports their learning in the outdoor environment. This equipment consists of an outdoor gym, swings, a tyre swing, a wooden train, sensory and musical equipment, trampoline, a basketball hoop and a football area. As well as this, learners have access to bikes and scooters.

Forest school Area

Can be booked by individual classes to allow each class regular access to these learning environments. The forest school area is used in a variety of ways at the discretion of the class teacher. Some common uses are; story time, scavenger hunts, and Slacklining.

Science Garden

Can be booked by individual classes to allow each class regular access to these learning environments. The Science Garden offers a range of uses such as; pond dipping, horticulture and composting.

Outside space

Each class has a garden area attached to their classroom and are supported to develop these areas to ensure that they are appropriate for their learners.

Outdoor Learning Day

In May, all learners take part in an annual Outdoor Learning Day. This may be a day where all learners take part in an educational visit offsite and follow a program of learning in the outdoor environment, or it may be a range of outdoor learning experiences and activities that are delivered within the school campus.

Long Term Plan

Suggested sessions are provided for learners whose teachers have requested a series of 'Forest School Skills' sessions.

Impact

Cann Bridge has diverse and dynamic learning environments, where learners can engage with their learning in a hands-on and experiential manner. Learners are motivated and engaged, leading to improved learning outcomes across various subjects. Outdoor learning allows cross curriculum connections, allowing learners to see the real-world applications of their skills and knowledge. Teachers are well skilled in developing high-quality outdoor learning spaces, which

are well utilised, fostering creativity and innovation in lesson planning, promoting spaces for holistic development by fostering skills such as teamwork, problem-solving, and resilience in an outdoor setting.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Review

The impact of the Outdoor learning curriculum will be monitored and evaluated through;

- Learning walks and observations
- Documentation of learning via Evisense
- Termly summative assessments i.e., Forest School
- Pupil progress reviews
- EHCP reviews
- Pupil voice
- Staff training feedback
- Learning environment audits

Outdoor Learning Rolling Programme

| Year group | Outdoor Learning Links | | |
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| | Autumn | Spring | Summer |
| EYFS | <p><u>ALL ABOUT ME</u> <u>AUTUMN/WINTER</u></p> <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Use the forest school to read chosen texts for this term.</p> <p>Explore the school campus</p> <p>Find hidden photos of themselves and their support staff</p> <p>Use sparklers outdoors Have a 'bonfire' in the forest school fire pit.</p> <p>Plant bulbs for daffodils ready for Spring project.</p> | <p><u>SPRING/EASTER</u></p> <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Use the Science Garden to spot the first signs of spring. Plant seeds/flowers.</p> <p>Easter egg (not chocolate) hunt in forest school.</p> | <p><u>SUMMER</u></p> <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Forest school planned activities</p> <p>Collecting natural forms</p> |
| KS1 Year 1 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Building a house for the 3 little pigs. Growing vegetables – the Enormous Turnip. Following directions/path - Little Red Riding Hood</p> <p>'Treasure hunt' - hiding objects outside – counting/1:1 correspondence</p> <p>Exploring and grouping different materials (Science)</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Planting and harvesting fruit/veg.</p> <p>Go on a sound walk – the senses (Science)</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Make a nest from found materials in forest school.</p> <p>Pond dipping.</p> |
| KS1 Year 2 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Treasure maps – X marks the spot on a map of the forest school to find hidden treasure</p> <p>Map skills: recognise positions, follow a trail, create maps.</p> <p>Seasons changing: Observe and collect fallen leaves. Draw around leaves. Play a game of 'snap' with leaves</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science: plant scavenger hunt.</p> <p>Read 'Digger man' in forest school then play with toy diggers outside.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:</p> |
| KS2 Year 1 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:</p> |

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| | <p>Slacklining in forest school – being brave</p> <p>Roll play 'Brave Irene' using the field.</p> <p>Shape hunt in forest school. Chalk shapes on playground.</p> | <p>'Follow the leader'. Learners take turns to lead the group around the outside areas moving in different ways and different directions. Incorporate positional language when using the playground and other outdoor areas.</p> <p>'Simon says' movements outdoors.</p> <p>Shelter building from found materials.</p> | <p>Minibeast hunt. (See LF for a wide range of resources)</p> <p>Collecting natural materials for the bug hotel.</p> <p>Whole school site exploration (TBH/TBP)</p> <p>Take photos of the school to use in English work.</p> |
| KS2 Year 2 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Storytelling of Myths and Monsters in forest school. Roleplay stories.</p> <p>Chalk dots/pebbles/sticks laid in patterns outside to support subitising.</p> <p>Science – hunt for different materials.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Planting and harvesting fruit and veg.</p> <p>Planting/observing flowers</p> <p>Local police station / fire station – or arrange for emergency service visitors into school</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Creating art using found materials outside.</p> |
| KS2 Year 3 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Hunt for the 'fairy' houses in forest school (Alice in wonderland)</p> <p>Frog hunt at the pond (Wind in the Willows)</p> <p>Using mirrors outside to reflect light. Exploring how water reflects light.</p> <p>Using natural materials to create pattern and sequences.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Collect different resources hidden outside and add them together.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Stories told outside with role play.</p> <p>Leaf hunt: exploring texture and compare our leaves to jungle leaves.</p> <p>Animal hunt. Hide small world animals in the forest school.</p> <p>Map skills: recognise positions, follow a trail, create maps. Creating and following directions to navigate the school campus.</p> |
| KS2 Year 4 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Observe things that are seen and heard in an outdoor environment. Gather key words and use to write a poem.</p> <p>PSHE – Keeping forest school/Science garden tidy. Helping to prune bushes/weed plants.</p> <p>Shape hunt</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Litter pick in the local area or school campus.</p> <p>Make a sundial</p> <p>Explore shadows: draw around each other's shadow.</p> <p>Rocket launch: use air rocket</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Spider hunt: Charlotte's Web</p> <p>Length and Height: measure distances around the campus with a metre measuring wheel.</p> |

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| KS3 Year 1 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Climate change: litter pick. Composting.</p> <p>Support and encourage wildlife in the forest school area and science garden? Activities could include: build head hog homes, build bug hotels, look after the pond, scatter seeds grow seeds and plants to encourage and support wildlife. Put up bird feeders and an outdoor camera.</p> <p>Use pebbles/sticks etc. To create patterns and sequences.</p> <p>Explore the sun: sundials/shadows.</p> <p>Make a time capsule and bury it outside.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science: growing plants from seeds.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:</p> |
| KS3 Year 2 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science – searching for habitats in forest school/woodland walk/visit a local zoo.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Litter pick – school campus Tidying up the outside space</p> |
| KS4 Year 1 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Maths: counting outside objects/scavenger hunt.</p> <p>Drawing large timetable grid.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science: States of matter – using the outside space to explore solids and liquids. The water cycle – rain collection/weather station.</p> <p>Art: Graffiti project: stencilling outside with chalk and spray paints</p> <p>Maths: Shape hunt</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Garden/forest school maintenance Maths: measure – length and temperature.</p> |
| KS4 Year 2 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Growing vegetables in the science garden or classroom gardens.</p> <p>Maths: time – sundial clocks</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science: Seasons/exploring the sun light.</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Take part in an activity to improve your local environment</p> |
| KS4 Year 3 | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science: Requirements for plants to grow How plants make their own food and transport water</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science: Changes of living things over time Plants and animals adapting to suit environments which could lead to evolution</p> | <p>OUTDOOR LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES: Science: shadows</p> |

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| KS5 Year 1 | Community Centre visit Shopping for Coffee shop Poole Farm volunteering Sailing | Poole Farm Carwash shopping for food tech | Swimming Horticulture |
| KS5 Year 2 | Travel training Community Centre visit | City College Visits Foxes Academy visit Horticulture | City College Visits Travel training |