



**HOLY FAMILY RC PRIMARY SCHOOL
ROCHDALE**

Learning Outside the Classroom Policy



Mission Policy

Holy Family School exists to serve its parish and community by promoting excellence academic, creative and spiritual learning.

Based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the Roman Catholic Church, the school seeks to provide a happy, organised and inspiring environment where children, staff, parents and visitors feel secure, loved and respected.

Holy Family Roman Catholic School encourages all its members:

Through WORK: to develop his or her full potential as part of the community and as a unique person made in the image and likeness of God.

Through WORSHIP: to learn to know and love God and to recognise and respond to the person of Christ in others.

Through WITNESS: to celebrate Gospel messages including justice and peace

Holy Family RC Learning Outside the Classroom

Our Learning Outside the Classroom Policy (LOtC) aims to foster children's love of learning. At Holy Family RC we recognise the positive outcomes associated with Learning Outside the Classroom and believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development. We are committed to ensuring these LOTC opportunities are progressive and frequent, enabling children to develop in a range of curriculum areas.

Learning Outside the Classroom is embedded within school life and is valued by all staff, it is believed to be an essential element for providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

Our school believes it is vital that we maintain a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum which ensures that pupils have the opportunity to have first-hand experiences outside the classroom. Our school grounds provide rich opportunities that can engage all pupils effectively in learning through nature. Visits outside of school are built into our curriculum and enhance children's learning either through planned whole visits or experiences being brought into school. A wide range of experiences are offered through our curriculum which help to develop children's self-confidence, self-awareness, skills and knowledge.

"Learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development."

Ofsted – Learning Outside of the Classroom report

<http://www.lotc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/Ofsted-Report-Oct-2008.pdf>



AIMS

- To develop Learning Outside the Classroom as an entitlement for all children
- To ensure high-quality provision through LOtC experiences
- To develop the curriculum through using the local environment and community
- To offer pupils exciting and stimulating experiences that enthuse them in their learning
- To develop self-esteem through providing a range of opportunities for pupils to excel
- To improve academic achievement
- To promote independent learning
- For pupils to develop their, social skills, independence and resilience through LOtC activities
- To provide a challenging, safe and secure environment within which children can take and manage risks.
- To encourage close links with parents and the school in celebrating our outdoor space and the rich learning that can take place within it.
- To encourage children to care for their environment

All staff involved in the learning outside the classroom activities are expected to familiarise themselves with this policy and also the processes and practices.

Benefits of Learning Outside the classroom (LOtC)

Direct experience outdoors is powerful, motivating and has impact and credibility. The results from outdoor learning can be instantaneous as well as active and therefore impact on behaviour as well as tapping into the learning styles of the more kinaesthetic learner. Through skilled teaching, outdoor experiences readily become a stimulating source of fascination, personal growth and can lead to breakthroughs in learning.

Active learning readily develops the learning skills of enquiry, experiment, feedback, reflection, review, communication, problem solving, an enterprising attitude and cooperative learning- to name only some benefits.

- LOtC helps to ensure that children are successful learners enabling children to develop knowledge and skills in ways that add value to their everyday learning experiences.
- LOtC enables children to be confident individuals and impacts positively upon young children's attitudes, beliefs and self-perceptions.
- LOtC contributes towards creating independent learners with high self-esteem and self-sufficiency.
- LOtC can have a positive impact upon children's behaviour.
- LOtC contributes towards the promotion and children's understanding of the importance of developing a healthy lifestyle.
- LOtC has a positive impact upon children's personal and social development. It can also bring about community cohesion and allow children to develop as responsible citizens who make positive contribution to their wider community. It can create pride in the school and wider community and promote community involvement, renewing children's pride and creating a sense of belonging and responsibility.
- LOtC raises learner's attainment, promotes and strengthens communication skills, team work and sense of cohesion.
- There is clear evidence that boys in particular are more active in their learning in an outdoor environment.



Trips and Visits

It is expected that all children have access to a range of trips and visits throughout the school year. These will be included in the curriculum plans and will support and expand opportunities for teaching and learning. Trips and visits should:

- Be part of the curriculum and enhance teaching and learning
- Provide hands - on, stimulating opportunities for children
- Help develop social skills and self- esteem.

A risk assessment needs to be completed before every trip by the Educational Visits Coordinator.

Our Educational Visits Policy will be adhered to at all times.

Use of the School Grounds

The school grounds are a resource for use by all the children. We aim to use it weekly:

- Including it as a planned resource within the curriculum – outdoor activities are planned for weekly
- Using it as a resource to support all curriculum areas
- Using it to support our healthy schools initiatives e.g. gardening and eco teams

The local community

At the beginning of the year a standard letter is sent out to parents requesting their permission for pupils to go on short walks into the community. All year groups are encouraged to make visits into the local community including:

- Visiting local religious and community buildings
- Taking part in local festivals and events
- Using local resources such as museums and art gallery
- Using local facilities such as parks and the swimming pool
- Using local businesses such as football clubs

Participating in productions

All pupils should be involved in at least three class productions annually. This might include:

- Harvest assembly
- Christmas Nativity
- Class assemblies
- Easter Assembly
- Leaver Assembly

Year 6 children also have the opportunity to take part in the Shakespeare Festival and perform at the Oldham Coliseum.



Monitoring and evaluation

Assessment of the children's learning will be valued equally indoors and outdoors and should be part of the same process.

In order to monitor this entitlement, the lead of LOTC will:

- Monitor plans termly for trips, visits and visitors
- Encourage and monitor LOTC activity evaluations.

It is particularly important that year group teachers ensure that:

- All pupils are fully able to participate in trips, visits.
- Learning outside the classroom experiences support and develop curriculum plans
- Learning outside the classroom experiences are evaluated for their effectiveness.

Roles and responsibilities

The LOTC team are responsible for ensuring staff members are providing opportunities for all children. This will be monitored through observation, book scrutinies and meetings with staff.

The Governing Body's role is that of a 'critical friend' to monitor policies and procedures, promote inclusion and ensure that the accredited award is met.

Each class teacher has a responsibility to ensure their class has sufficient opportunities for LOTC (minimum once a half term) that are relevant, progressive and varied. Teachers are encouraged to use the whole school grounds to ensure all learning styles are incorporated.

The Head Teacher and EVC have the responsibility to ensure that all staff members are adhering to health and safety regulations and current risk assessments for the outdoor areas.

Management of LOTC:

The LOTC award team will monitor the planning and teaching of LOTC across the school

Staff knowledge and skills are supported in a variety of ways. These include; model/sharing good practice, team teaching, collaborative work, INSET provision and using outside professions when required

The LOTC award team and the Head Teacher, will share information with parents/carers if necessary and consider when consent is required

Ensure procedures such as risk management have been carried out prior to a trip/visit

Health and Safety

We will support children in taking risks within a safe and secure environment. Pupils will be taught how to manage risks. It is important to ensure that the outdoor environment offers challenges and teaches the children how to be safe and aware of others. LOTC opportunities will be grasped when available and teachers will assess risk.

In the first instance the school policies relating to Health and Safety and Risk Assessment should be referred to and applied prior to any LOTC activity that may require additional support beyond the reasonable activities one would normally apply within the class room. It is also important that the



school applies robust safety measures to effectively manage and minimise risks. It is equally important, however, that all involved, including parents, acknowledge that a degree of residual risk remains. Our children are taught to manage risks in regard to LOtC. All pupils are regularly reminded about the importance of staying safe. Being safe is a school expectation and children are reminded of the importance of keeping themselves and members of the school community safe.

Linked policies

These include:

- Educational visits guidance
- Curriculum policies
- Health and safety Policy