

# Learning Outside the Classroom Policy



**Approved by:** RT SMT

**Date:** June 2025

**Last reviewed on:** June 2025

**Next review due:** June 2028

## Rationale

Our Learning Outside the Classroom Policy (LOtC) is designed to nurture a love of learning in children. At Ronald Tree Nursery School, we believe every child has the right to experience the unique and special nature of the outdoors. We are committed to using the outdoor environment as a vital context for learning.

We strive to maintain a broad, balanced, and exciting curriculum that ensures pupils have the opportunity to engage in first-hand experiences outside the classroom. Our school grounds offer rich opportunities for all pupils to learn through nature effectively.

Incorporating visits outside of school into our curriculum enhances children's learning. These visits can be whole-school excursions, small group outings inspired by the children's interests, or our 'out and about in the community' days. Our diverse range of experiences helps develop children's self-confidence, self-awareness, skills, and knowledge.

Further information of the benefits of learning outside the classroom can be found here:

[LOtC - What and Why? - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom](#)

## Aims

- To provide Learning Outside the Classroom as an entitlement for all children
- To ensure high-quality provision through LOtC experiences.
- To expand the curriculum through using the local environment and community
- To encourage children to care for their environment.
- To offer pupils exciting and stimulating experiences that enthuse them in their learning
- To develop self-esteem and citizenship skills through engaging with the outside world
- 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.

## Policy Statement

- Ronald Tree Nursery School will fully comply with the OEAP National Guidance. OEAP is the working name of **The Association of Advisers for Outdoor Learning and Educational Visits** [National Guidance |](#)
- Ronald Tree Nursery School maintains a fully trained Educational Visits Coordinator (EVC): Jackie Wilson.
- We employ the services of an External Adviser, Mike Fawcett of Longtown Outdoor Learning, who is an accredited member of the Outdoor Education Advisers Panel to provide advice, support and approval for Category C visits (see below).

## Ronald Tree Nursery School will classify three categories of trip/visit:

### Category A visits

These visits are close to the school, done on a regular basis involving environments known to the staff. It would include normal daily life activities. Examples include walks and exploring the area near to the school site, visits to the local church, library, school sporting fixtures and other regular non-complex activity. It can also include transport if needed.

### Category B visits

These visits are to areas beyond the local area involving more complex environments and activity, and will typically be a one off or irregular activity in the school year. There may be some specialist training attached to some activities in this area. Examples include visits further afield, farm visits, local parks, museum visits, swimming lessons in offsite pools, zoo visits, sporting festivals and larger tournaments and some basic outdoor education activity.

### Category C visits

These visits include residential visits, overseas visits, adventure activities and activities involving water. It is not possible to provide a completely definitive activities list. Examples of activities included would include Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, outdoor adventure activities including hills and mountains, motor sports, adventures on water or field studies involving water.

## Where does LoTc take place?

Excerpt from: [LoTc - What and Why? - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom](#)



### **How we will deliver Trips and Visits**

Children will have the opportunity to be involved in a number of trips and visits during their time at nursery. These will support and expand opportunities for teaching and learning. Trips and visit 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 is completed before every trip out of the school grounds by the trip lead. Some of these risk assessments will remain the same, but may have additional information included to meet the needs of specific children and families.

### **Use of the school garden**

The school garden is a resource for use by all the children. We aim to use it all day every day to give the children free choice as to whether they would prefer to learn indoors or outdoors:

- Including it as a planned resource within the curriculum – outdoor activities are planned for daily.
- Using it as a resource to support all curriculum areas
- Using it to support our healthy schools initiatives e.g. gardening, outdoor cookery, and sustainability initiatives.
- During lunch times. Our garden will be used by the children attending the lunch club.

### **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 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 facilities such as parks
- Visiting local businesses such as the pizza shop, garages, the co-op etc.
- Visiting a local residential care home
- Trips to the Green Patch

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

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

It is particularly important that leaders ensure that:

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

### **Health and Safety**

Refer to and apply school policies relating to Health and Safety and Risk Assessment prior to any LOTC activity.

#### **Support for Risk-Taking:**

All staff will assess risks associated with LOTC activities and apply robust safety measures to manage and minimize risks.

Children will be supported in taking risks within a safe and secure environment.

Pupils will be taught how to manage risks effectively.

Regular reminders for all pupils about the importance of staying safe.

All involved, including parents, must acknowledge that a degree of residual risk remains.

#### **Outdoor Environment:**

Ensure the outdoor environment offers challenges.

Teach children to be safe and aware of others.

#### **Linked policies**

These include:

- Health and Safety Policy
- the EYFS

#### **Policy review**

This policy should be considered alongside other relevant policies mentioned above. It will be reviewed every 3 years as part of the schedule of policy reviews.