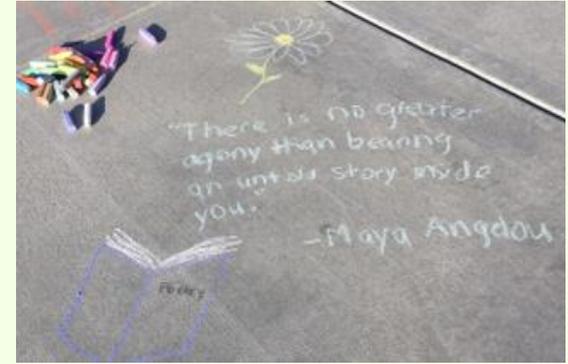


Professional Learning Pack:

Curriculum Based Outdoor Learning on school grounds in Primary and Secondary Schools:

How might teachers optimise the use of school grounds to deliver curriculum based lessons and support the need for increased teaching space and social distancing?



University of Brighton

Expectations:

This interactive study resource is designed for you to work through at your own pace.

In total, if completed in full by engaging in the linked webinars and suggested tasks it would take 3.5 hours. However, you should also be able to use the slides on their own to gain an understanding of how you could explore outdoor curriculum based learning in your setting.

It primarily looks at how the maths and English curricula might be taught outside. However, many of the ideas and strategies are translatable to other areas of the National Curriculum.

Where possible, timings in webinars or clips have been identified that best suit primary/secondary trainees.



University of Brighton

The DfE guidance to schools on '***How to implement protective measures in an education setting before wider opening from 1 June***'

mentions outdoor learning as a way of schools 'refreshing their curriculum' in order to plan and organise learning :



Department
for Education

'consider which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors'

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>



University of Brighton



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTM3JILh0u4>

‘As many schools across the UK and world start to plan how they will accommodate more learners back on-site after Covid-19, this webinar highlights the benefits that outdoor learning has to offer’.

The **Learning Through Landscapes** charity has made their recent webinar **Learning to Return Outdoors** freely available on their YouTube site. This is a really helpful resource.

There is a task for you to engage in outlined on the following slide to help you make the most of this webinar.

The webinar is full of pragmatic guidance and practical ideas to help Primary and Secondary trainees and teachers consider what aspects of the curriculum they could move outside the classroom; regardless of whether your setting has an abundance of wild areas and fields or is limited to small strips of concrete.



University of Brighton

TASK:

Engage in the LtL webinar recording Learning to Return Outdoors.

Generic/Primary Focus: 00:00-30:00 minutes

Secondary Focus: 30:00-48:00 minutes

You could use the headings outlined in this slide to organise your notes and any other thoughts and ideas that are triggered by the webinar.

Some of the ideas outlined in the webinar will be explored in a little more detail in subsequent slides.

Copies of a partially completed and a blank Proforma accompanying this PLP have been created if you would like to use these to support your note taking.



Microsoft Word
Document



Microsoft Word
Document

- **The benefits of outdoor learning**
- **Risk Assessment**
- **Planning and Preparation**
- **Rituals, routines and behaviour management**
- **Resource ideas**
- **Lesson ideas**



University of Brighton

The Benefits of Outdoor Learning:

Watch this clip of Sir Ken Robinson. Add his 5 reasons to teach outside to your chart.

<https://www.tes.com/news/watch-sir-ken-robinson-shares-five-reasons-you-should-take-your-class-outside>



University of Brighton

The Benefits of Outdoor Learning:

Additional Reading:

- The Natural Connections Demonstration Project:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/englands-largest-outdoor-learning-project-reveals-children-more-motivated-to-learn-when-outside>
- Institute for Outdoor Learning: <https://www.outdoor-learning.org/Good-Practice/Research-Resources/About-Outdoor-Learning>
- Institute for Outdoor Learning 'Making the Case for Outdoor Learning':
<https://www.outdoor-learning-research.org/Evidence>
- Muddy Faces <https://www.educateoutside.com/outdoor-learning/>
- Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC)
<https://www.lotc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/School-Grounds-Handout.pdf>



University of Brighton

Risk Assessment:

Explore how risk is assessed and recorded in your school and if there are already risk assessments for **particular areas of the school grounds**.

Read your school/setting's **Health and Safety** and **Risk Assessment** policies and discuss these with your Educational Visits Co-ordinator or a member of the SLT.

A useful guide to risks to consider can be found on **p. 26 of the Scottish Woodland Trusts Outdoor Learning Pack**:

https://www.sustainablelearning.com/sites/default/files/asset-files/woodland_trust_scotland_outdoor_learning_pack.pdf



However, it is a good mantra to remember that it is **PEOPLE NOT PAPER** that keep others safe.



This idea is explored in the following clip from Independent Thinking's series of What Now? Conversations: '*A Conversation about Primary Teaching and Learning Outside*' including in terms of the current needs around social distancing: **13:00 – 23:00 mins**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J3Qpc8JSih4&feature=youtu.be>



University of Brighton

**Risk
Assessment:**

Additional reading:

- **DfE guidance on health & safety and well-being in schools:**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits/health-and-safety-on-educational-visits>
- **Learning Through Landscapes Outdoor Learning Risk Assessment**
<https://www.ltl.org.uk/understanding-risk/>
- **Learning Through Landscapes *Risk and Challenge in the Outdoor* Webinar**
<https://www.facebook.com/LtLNews/videos/1190247217983828/>
- **Council for Learning outside the Classroom (LOtC)**
<https://www.lotc.org.uk/why/risk-challenge-and-adventure/>
- **Social distancing in school grounds:** https://www.ltl.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/covid-school-grounds-poster_landscapesinschools.pdf



Planning and Preparation:

Key advice from many expert outdoor learning practitioners would be to plan lessons/activities just as you would learning within an indoor classroom.

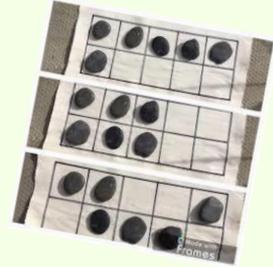
Juliet Robertson of Creative Star Learning reminds teachers 'to use your best teaching skills!'.

You still need to plan how you will manage behaviour, share learning, make assessments and feedback to pupils.



What will you, the teacher, need to think about and have available and how will you transport this?

- ✓ Do you need an iPad to record work and make assessments?
- ✓ Are you going to need something on which to model learning eg a magic whiteboard <https://www.magicwhiteboard.co.uk/category/magic-whiteboard/> or a white bedsheet with or without markings? Creative Star learning has lots of ideas for outdoor maths resources: <https://creativestarlarning.co.uk/early-years-outdoors/a-pocket-outdoor-maths-kit/>
- Do you need to have let the pupils know if you are meeting them outside after a break or lunchtime?
- Do you need a whistle or musical instrument to gain their attention or gather them in?



University of Brighton

Planning and Preparation:



What will the pupils need to have with them or available to them?

- **Will you be expecting them to find their own resources as part of the lesson or will you provide these for them? eg**
 - ✓ Clipboards – purchased or homemade
 - ✓ Waterproof wallets for individuals with everything they need inside
 - ✓ Journals – paper/card or digital (eg using SeeSaw)
 - ✓ Chunky pencils (these can still mark-make even when it's damp) or chalks
 - ✓ Natural counting or measuring objects



These are just a few ideas. One way to get started is to identify just one section of the lesson that could be taught outside eg

- An oral or mental starter at the end of a break time
- A plenary just before break time
- Talk pair share or oral planning activities
- Reading/reciting activities

In this way, as you establish routines and rituals for learning outside, resources are kept to a minimum and all you might need is a book..... a counting stick.... an iPad or just your whistle!



University of Brighton



Rituals, routines and behaviour management:

These need establishing in the same way you would do in the indoor classroom.

There are some key points to consider but there are lots of other ideas from two US outdoor learning websites and the Woodland Trust Scotland:

- **Woodland Trust Scotland**
https://www.sustainablelearning.com/sites/default/files/asset-files/woodland_trust_scotland_outdoor_learning_pack.pdf (pages 2 and 3)
- **Evergreen**
<https://www.evergreen.ca/downloads/pdfs/Classroom%20Management.pdf>
- **Ed Web Webinar** (you need to sign up but it is free to do so)
<https://media.edweb.net/edWebinar/?view=20150115edwebnet11>

What routines will you put in place for meeting or moving your class to your outdoor classroom area. Here a few tips..

- ✓ **Share the LO with pupils – *today we will be learning.....and we will be doing this in the X area.* So the focus remains on the learning.**
- ✓ **Provide pupils with a learning-related challenge on the journey to your outdoor space** eg *How many rectangles can you count? Estimate how long it will take you as a class to get out or how many steps? Can you count up or down in 1s/0.1/fifths? Or 'generate synonyms for '..... Or talk pair share previous learning in preparation for lesson introduction.*
- ✓ One idea for encouraging social distance gathering, during adult-led teaching, is to use a **large rope with two metre tape markings on it. This can be used in a range of configurations including social distance circles.** Cones or individual tiles to sit on can work too.
- ✓ **Use touch and return games to establish boundaries** of where pupils can and can't explore when working independently.

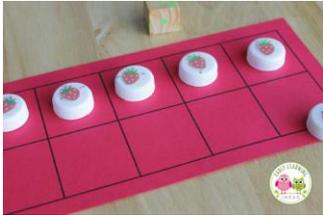


University of Brighton

Resource ideas:

Outdoor learning resources don't have to be expensive.

For example, you could recycle objects to use for example as counters...



...or use natural objects for creating patterns.



- In this clip Juliet Robertson shares some of her ideas with James from Starbuck Education for generic outdoor resources that can survive all weathers!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mKhZXNzDaco>



University of Brighton

EYFS

Lesson Ideas:

Just as you would when planning a lesson for an indoor whole group input, always **start with the learning and development** you want to take place. Then consider whether or not the outdoors might be a good place in which to support pupils' development.

Learning with Landscapes and other outdoor learning sites have lots of ideas for curriculum based lessons and activities.

Links to DM	Lesson Activity	
<p>Maths: SP&M <i>Order and compare two or more items by length or height.</i></p>	<p>Children develop a sense of size in relation to themselves and between objects by comparing and ordering themselves and natural resources. https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/?swoof=1&pa_age=2-5</p>	
<p>CAL:S Use language to imagine and talk and introduce a story line into their play.</p>	<p>Cloud gazing and '<i>I spy in the sky</i>'. Can you see a face? Can you see a castle? Can the children begin to link these in a story? https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/?swoof=1&pa_age=2-5</p>	
<p>UW: P&C Know about families, communities and traditions.</p>	<p>Chalk Diwali patterns. https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/</p>	



EYFS Lesson Ideas:

Your go!



Link to DM	Lesson Activity	Resources
UW:TW <i>Look closely at similarities and differences.</i>	Sorting and classifying natural objects found outside https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/?swoof=1&pa_age=2-5	?
EAD: EUMM <i>Tap out simple repeated patterns.</i>	?	?
?	?	?

<https://www.foundationyears.org.uk/files/2012/03/Development-Matters-FINAL-PRINT-AMENDED.pdf>



University of Brighton

Primary Lesson Ideas:

Just as you would when planning a lesson for an indoor classroom, always start with the **learning** you want to take place. Then consider whether or not the outdoors might be a good place in which to support pupils' development.

Learning with Landscapes and other outdoor learning sites have lots of ideas for curriculum based lessons and activities.

Use NC LOs to consider how some of these could be used to support learning. For example:

LO	Lesson Activity	
<p>Year 2 English <i>To be able to use others' poems as the structure for planning and writing own.</i></p>	<p>Use the scaffold of 'Number – Adjective – Alliteration – Noun' to create effective number poetry. https://www.tfl.org.uk/resources/outdoor-number-poems/</p>	
<p>Year 5 Maths <i>read Roman numerals to 1000 (M) and recognise years written in Roman numerals</i></p>	<p>Use natural resources to create a clock or create numbers sentences using Roman numerals. https://mathspig.wordpress.com/tag/roman-numerals/</p>	
<p>Year 6 MfL <i>To broaden vocabulary including through using a dictionary.</i></p>	<p>Create labels or a word bank/mini dictionary for younger pupils for outdoor objects in taught language. https://www.twinkl.co.uk/resource/cfe-t-2548512-mfl-outdoor-learning-ideas-first-level-poster</p>	



University of Brighton

Primary Lesson Ideas:

Your go!

How might you move some or all of the learning for these NC objectives into the school grounds?



LO	Lesson Activity	Resources:
Year 1 English <i>To write sentences by saying out loud what they want to say.</i>	?	?
Year 3 Maths <i>To recognise the place value for each digit in a three-digit number.</i>	?	?
?	?	?

<https://michaelt1979.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/curriculum-overview-for-years-1-6.pdf>



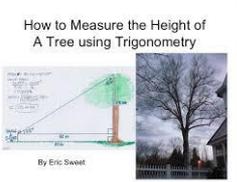
University of Brighton

KS3/4 Lesson Ideas:

Just as you would when planning a lesson for an indoor classroom, always start with the *learning* you want to take place. Then consider whether or not the outdoors might be a good place in which to support pupils' development.

Learning with Landscapes and other outdoor learning sites have ideas for curriculum based lessons and activities.

Use NC LOs to consider how some of these could be used to support learning. For example:

LO	Lesson Activity	
<p>KS3 Maths <i>To use Pythagoras' Theorem and trigonometric ratios to solve problems involving right-angled triangles.</i></p>	<p>Use measuring sticks and trigonometry to compare heights of various trees on the school site.</p> <p>https://www.itl.org.uk/free-resources/?swoof=1&pa_age=12-plus</p>	 <p>How to Measure the Height of A Tree using Trigonometry</p> <p>By Eric Swett</p>
<p>KS3/4 MFL <i>Transcribe words and short sentences that they hear with increasing accuracy.</i></p>	<p>Modern Language treasure hunt</p> <p>https://www.itl.org.uk/free-resources/?swoof=1&pa_age=12-plus&pa_subject=literacy-languages</p>	
<p>KS3/4 Science (Physics) <i>To be taught the differences in the numbers of protons and neutrons related to masses.</i></p>	<p>Pupils model atoms and bonding using loose parts on a playground.</p> <p>https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk/resource/outdoor-atomic-modelling/</p>	



University of Brighton

KS3 Lesson Ideas:

Your go!

How might you move some or all of the learning for these NC objectives into the school grounds?



LO	Lesson Activity	Resources:
KS3 English <i>To participate in formal debates and structured discussions.</i>	?	?
KS4 Maths <i>To compare lengths and areas using ration notation.</i>	?	
?	?	?



University of Brighton

Reflect:

We hope that this PLP has inspired you to have a go at taking some of your teaching and learning outside..... even for very short periods.

Here are some additional links and further reading for those who would like to find out more.

- Juliet Robertson's website and free links to Primary Literacy and Numeracy Lesson ideas <https://creativestarlearning.co.uk/general-commentary/the-thinking-child-free-outdoor-numeracy-and-literacy->
- National Curriculum in the Outside Publications <resources/https://www.bloomsbury.com/uk/search?q=The+National+Curriculum+Outdoors&Gid=1>
- Guidance for Cross Curricular Outdoor Learning in KS3 and 4 <https://www.teachwire.net/teaching-resources/far-wide-guidance-for-crosscurricular-outdoor-learning-at-ks3#login-box24>
- <https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/10/Top-Play-Tips-for-Outdoor-Classroom-Day-2019.pdf>
- No Pensday Wednesday http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk/media/152384/additonal_activity_resources_and_links.pdf
- Learning Through Landscapes and Creative Star both use social media to upload useful information regularly, including guidance related to the current situation eg <https://www.facebook.com/CreativeSTARLearning> <https://www.facebook.com/LtLNews/>



University of Brighton



No
ceiling,
just
sky.



University of Brighton