



CLOUGHWOOD ACADEMY

Outward Bounds (Learning Outside the Classroom) Policy

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1. Rationale

At Cloughwood Academy we believe it is vital that we create a broad and balanced curriculum. This includes ensuring that all pupils have the opportunity to experience the world first hand and have the chance to see and take part in activities outside the classroom. Our school grounds and local area provide rich opportunities to stimulate learning and promote health and well-being amongst our pupils. We also believe that a well-planned and facilitated outdoor experience further afield gives children the opportunity to explore their learning in a way that is difficult to reproduce indoors. The outdoors experience can provide a scaffold through which resilience, resourcefulness and team work are fostered and one where creativity, curiosity and imagination is encouraged and valued.

2. Aims

- i. To raise the profile of outdoor learning as a framework for development.
- ii. To explore our outdoor space and the rich learning that can take place within it.
- iii. For all students to develop skills and independence in a widening range of environments.
- iv. For all students to socialise and interact in new and different ways with their peers and adults.
- v. To provide a safe and stimulating outdoor environment where space is used effectively to enable students to access a broad curriculum, utilising a varied range of resources.
- vi. To raise awareness of environmental issues.
- vii. To allow students to push themselves out of their comfort zone in a controlled and safe manner.
- viii. To make students aware of the risk management involved in outdoor activities and to share responsibility for their personal safety when undertaking outdoor activities.
- ix. To rotate a year group a day through Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) during the enrichment hour at the end of the day.
- x. To increase attainment, attendance and motivation within the student cohort.

3. Teaching and learning methods

- i. Make use of a variety of outdoor environments to encourage kinaesthetic learning which will help students discover their particular learning styles.
- ii. Make the learning methods across the whole of LOtC creative to encourage students' curiosity, resilience and intuition.
- iii. Emphasis will be made on social learning for individuals who struggle in groups and have low self esteem.
- iv. Personalise certain aspects of LOtC to enable independent learning and discovery, and nurture the courage taken to express new knowledge in a group.

4. Resources/Provision

- i. Learning outside the classroom manifesto.
- ii. Sustrans and equipment stored at school.

- iii. School bicycles and biking equipment.
- iv. Cycle hub (bike workshop).
- v. School rock climbing equipment.
- vi. School kayaks and sail boats.
- vii. Cloughwood staff certified in outdoor adventure.
- viii. Grozone.
- ix. Local outdoor area.

5. Equal opportunity/inclusion

- i. Give **all** our students the best possible all-round education and ensure their on-going physical, emotional, and mental health.
- ii. Help **all** our students to enjoy their education and maximise their learning potential and outcomes.
- iii. **All** our students to receive a wide range of opportunities to develop socially and emotionally in a safe environment outside the classroom regardless of race, culture or disability.

6. Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

- i. All LOtC will encourage appropriate social interactions to take place in year groups and efforts will be made to mix the ages, to give the younger students good moral standards set by the older students.
- ii. The spiritual and cultural backgrounds of students will be considered when planning LOtC activities. Also there will be curriculum emphasis on spiritual and cultural education if the opportunity arises during an activity.

7. Links with other areas of the curriculum

- i. Teaching staff will liaise with Motivation and Outdoor Learning Instructors (MOLI) to identify activities which support the curriculum that students are studying in the classroom in order to enhance their learning experience.

8. Health and Safety

- i. All activities to be risk assessed in advance of the activity.
- ii. All risk assessments to be checked by MOLI before being submitted to Principal
- iii. Any water based, climbing or caving activity to have a risk assessment submitted one month prior to activity taking place.
- iv. All staff must be qualified in the discipline they teach and must keep certificates/qualifications in date.
- v. Any accident is immediately assessed to ensure risk is minimised.
- vi. All safety points for any activity are explained beforehand to all staff and students.

- vii. When planning a trip involving another organisation their assessments and procedures are considered.
- viii. Staff apply a sensible and responsible safety approach at all times to ensure risks are minimised and effectively and proportionately managed.
- ix. Staff to focus on "real" risks when planning and executing trips to ensure learning opportunities are experienced to the full.
- x. Risk assessments and the proportionate system put in place are to be reviewed at the end of each term by MOLIs taking into consideration all staff feedback.
- xi. All Cloughwood-owned LOtC equipment to be checked and replaced according to relevant guidance.
- xii. In an emergency, a member of Senior Management Team/ Incident Management Team is to be contacted immediately and the situation to be co-ordinated via one of the team.

9. Assessment, reporting, recording and accreditation

- i. All activities are to be assessed by staff before, during and after in order to keep the activity relevant, safe, interesting and inclusive to all students involved.
- ii. Students and staff will fill in a small questionnaire once a term to gather feedback on LOtC.
- iii. Students with poor attendance, at risk of a high level of physical intervention or have high level of detentions will be targeted for LOtC; the pupils attendance and PASS data will be recorded for "progression" monitoring.
- iv. Where possible the MOLIs will aim to achieve an award or certificate for the students in the various LOtC areas, such as Duke of Edinburgh (DofE), John Muir, AQA, and junior outdoor activity awards.

10. Continuous Professional Development and subject development

- i. MOLIs and LOtC staff to keep qualifications up to date.
- ii. MOLIs to keep up to date with new safety amendments and instructions from relevant governing bodies.
- iii. A concerted effort to have a full range of water based qualifications to enable water sports to be run "in house"
- iv. MOLIs to have a minimum of SPA award, MLS award and one water sport award before July 2015.

11. Review and evaluation

- i. MOLIs to review progress at the end of term with VPs
- ii. MOLIs to gather feedback from John Muir, Duke of Edinburgh schemes.
- iii. Gather information from the volunteer services used to complete DofE.