



GREAT KIMBLE
C OF E SCHOOL
BIG HEARTS BOLD FUTURES

Learning Outside the Classroom

Curriculum Statement

Intent:

At Great Kimble School, we recognise the powerful impact that learning outside the classroom can have on children's wellbeing, behaviour and engagement. Our outdoor learning curriculum is designed to **nurture big hearts and bold futures** by providing meaningful opportunities for children to connect with nature, develop confidence and build a strong sense of community.

We are incredibly fortunate to have access to our outdoor classroom at Smokey Row, which offers a safe and inspiring environment where children can immerse themselves in nature, take part in a wide range of outdoor and nature-based activities, and develop a love for the world they are living in. Learning outside the classroom supports children's physical, emotional and mental wellbeing, while promoting curiosity, resilience and independence.

Our outdoor learning ethos places nature at the heart of learning. Children are encouraged to spend time outdoors in a variety of settings and weather conditions, fostering adaptability and respect for the natural environment. Sessions are inclusive and non-competitive, enabling all pupils to take part fully and experience success. Safety is prioritised through careful risk assessment, while children are supported to take increasing responsibility for their own personal safety.

Through collaborative activities, children build **big hearts** by strengthening relationships, developing empathy and learning to care for one another and the natural world. A weekly nature-based curriculum encourages compassion, environmental responsibility and sustainability, alongside the development of practical bushcraft skills such as fire-making, knot-tying, shelter-building and woodworking.

Through learning outside the classroom, we prepare children for **bold futures** by nurturing confident, resilient learners who value teamwork, wellbeing and their role in protecting the world around them.

Implementation:

- Weekly afternoon sessions at Smokey Row for Reception and KS1
- Fortnightly afternoon sessions at Smokey Row for KS2
- The nature curriculum is based upon the Exploring Nature with Children curriculum and Twinkl's Outdoor Explorers curriculum and is tailored for Smokey Row sessions, adapted to fit Year A and Year B mixed classes in KS1 and KS2. We also use elements of the Forest School ethos by implementing a short grounding meditation which we start each session with. The curriculum follows the seasons to allow children to connect with nature in real-time and immerse themselves in observing their natural surroundings.
- Bushcraft skills will be taught in small groups with a clear progression of skills and expectations amongst all year groups with rigorous risk assessments and clear safety procedures in place.
- Cross-curricular links are added where appropriate, allowing children to make connections with what they are learning at Smokey Row in other areas of learning.

Impact:

- The introduction of an outdoor nature curriculum has transformed the children's visits to Smokey Row and has opened a whole new avenue of learning for them that compliments other taught subjects at Great Kimble.
- We value the impact of an outdoor curriculum on emotional wellbeing and have witnessed first-hand how children's moods improve during a session. Every child's feelings are validated within the session, and this helps them to feel seen and heard.
- Children who wouldn't normally have much opportunity to spend time in nature outside of school or are risk averse have begun to thrive in the sessions and are beginning to take those managed risks and push themselves.
- Children are beginning to pay more attention to the environment and are transferring knowledge from one session to the next, using new skills or knowledge from prior sessions.



AMBITION



RESPECT



RESILIENCE



LOVE



COLLABORATION

