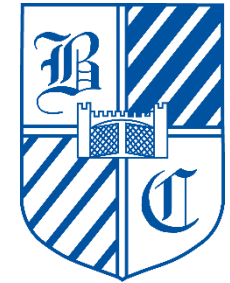


Outdoor Learning at Butlers Court



Our Butlers Court family nurtures kind, resilient, ambitious and curious children. Our caring environment supports well-being and self-belief, encouraging everyone to flourish. Through a wide range of experiences and opportunities, every child has the chance to shine, developing a love of learning and prepared for the ever-changing world and a future of possibilities.

Curriculum Intent

We offer all children a broad and exciting curriculum that inspires creativity, builds strong subject knowledge, and makes learning enjoyable and meaningful.

We nurture curiosity and develop essential skills such as problem-solving, communication, and independent thinking through engaging and memorable experiences.

We value every child's voice, encouraging them to express their opinions and take an active role in school life.

Our Values

Resilience

Honesty

Responsibility

Respect

Tolerance

Honesty

Curriculum Intent – We aim to ...

At Butlers Court, we have a strong ethos for Outdoor Learning. We aim to foster holistic development in children through curriculum based outdoor learning and exploration. Our intent is to nurture resilient, confident, and creative learners by providing opportunities to take supported risks in the natural environment. We provide them memorable experiences where they can put what they have learned in the classroom into context through practical activities which encourage problem solving, teamwork and oracy skills.

The primary aims of this curriculum will be:

- To build creative, independent learners.
- To develop children's personal, social and emotional development.
- To develop and build the ideas of risk management and risk benefit.
- To nurture a love of nature and sense of responsibility for caring for the environment.

Curriculum Implementation – How we achieve this...

- A combination of Outdoor Learning lessons which have been planned through our schemes and through Our hyperlinked who school curriculum map which provides lessons and resources for Outdoor Learning across the curriculum.
- Staff will be supported in planning, leading and monitoring the quality of Outdoor Learning through our Outdoor Learning coordinator who will lead annual Staff INSET to keep teachers up to date with best practices and resources.
- Outdoor Learning Days to be held once per term so children can have a whole day dedicated to learning outside in every season.

Outdoor Learning Rules:

These have been shared with all staff members and children so that Outdoor Learning sessions are safe and productive.

B-Boundaries: know where you are allowed to go

R-Respect: We respect each other, the environment and the equipment.

A-Always listen to the teacher and follow instructions.

N-No picking or licking- without permission

C-Care for each other

H-Help clear up and leave the environment as you found it.

Fieldwork:

We use Kapow for our Geography curriculum which includes a fieldwork lesson per unit. The scheme ensures there is progressive development: in fieldwork skills progressively across year groups. Pupils become proficient in questioning, observing, measuring, recording, and presenting through an enquiry cycle approach. It provides diverse fieldwork opportunities: fieldwork ranges from on-site exercises to more extensive explorations, enhancing pupils' understanding of their local environment, building confidence using a variety of data collection methods and providing a solid understanding of their locality; crucial when comparing it to other places. Fieldwork also enhances critical thinking and problem-solving abilities, as pupils learn to analyse and interpret the information they gather. Additionally, it fosters an appreciation of both local and global environments, encouraging responsible attitudes towards the world.

Scientific investigation:

Scientific concepts and vocabulary are best taught in context in practical hands-on sessions outside. For some topics this is particularly essential:

- Plants
- Animals and their Habitats
- Light
- Forces
- The water cycle

Across the curriculum:

Our curriculum incorporates Outdoor Learning across the curriculum in order for it to be an integrated part of our teaching and learning provision. This includes using the school grounds as an extra classroom or breakout space for individuals, small groups and whole classes. We intentionally look for the potential in teaching certain topics/concepts outside across the curriculum as often as possible. For example (but not limited to):

Science lessons and investigations are taught outside as much as possible so children can develop their enquiry skills, and be able see scientific ideas at work in the real world. They can develop their oracy skills to make observations and evaluate the fairness of their experiments. By planning and carrying out their investigations outside they can learn to be creative and independent learners who can evaluate the success of their enquiry and suggest improvements.

- English- poetry, drama, storytelling and reading outside (our parent stay and reads are often outside).
- Maths-Enrich orienteering trails, using natural loose parts for calculating and modelling place value, shape scavenger hunts
- Science: mini beast hunts, growing plants and identifying their parts, tracking the movement of the sun, creating animal homes
- History-Local walks to historic buildings, chalk timelines, great fire of London enactment, firepit cooking of historical food
- Geography- using maps and compasses, the water cycle
- Art- making art out of natural: Andy Goldsworthy, landscape painting, printing making with natural items
- P.E: Athletics, ball games, multi-skills
- R.E-creation stories
- PSHE: getting along in group work, communicating effectively
- Music- composing outside so you can hear the people in your group.
- Computing: iMovie trailers, nature watch cameras

Physical and Mental wellbeing:

By giving children physically more space to conduct their lessons they will be more active and travel more during a session which will improve fitness and stamina. It will also provide movement breaks and increase children's sense of wellbeing and confidence through connecting with nature.

- P.E lessons are held outside once a week
- Movement breaks using the rainbow road/the track will be held as needed.
- Seizing the opportunity to take lessons outside as much as possible.

Outdoor learning area:

We are fortunate enough to have a woodland area behind our science cabin which also has a pond.

This will be used for: (for example)

- Pond dipping
- Invertebrate hunts
- Science investigations
- Wellbeing sessions

And all children will have regular access to the area and will wear appropriate clothing for the weather and the environment.

Outdoor Learning Days/school trips:

Three whole days outside per year (one per term) as a year group or as a class. These will be directly linked to the curriculum and provide engaging ways to learn by being outside. Class trips and residential will provide outdoor learning opportunities for every year group to see a wide range of environments both rural and urban. These will expand our children's knowledge and understanding of the world.

Sustainability:

Our curriculum is planned to deepen children's connection with nature and understand the importance of caring for the environment.

Through initiatives led by our school eco warriors, science and geography lessons we teach children to develop sustainable habits and awareness of local wildlife through real-life, outdoor experiences.

Through connections with local organisations such as the Chiltern Rangers we help children become an active part in improving their local area.

Curriculum Impact

By the end of KS2 children will become well rounded and prepared learners and individuals with a love for the Outdoors. They will not only be more confident and resilient learners; they will become more caring and supportive peers due to the heavy focus the curriculum places on understanding and generating empathy. They will see the importance of spending time in nature in relation to their wellbeing. They will be more articulate individuals due to the impact Outdoor Learning has had on their oracy skills. They will also be more aware and considerate about how their everyday choices can impact the environment.

Through Outdoor Learning children will grow in confidence in their abilities in the outdoor environment, they will begin to understand, assess and manage their own risk and safety. This will allow the children to become more independent and show them that life comes with not only risk but also rewards. It also teaches them what their own limits are and that they can push through them. They will see that sometimes we don't always get the desired result the first time but that doesn't make us a failure, it helps us to grow, forcing us to try again in a different way. It encourages problem solving logical thinking and self-reflection and evaluation.