



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AT ST IVES SCHOOL

OUTDOOR EDUCATION- CURRICULUM INTRODUCTION STATEMENT OF INTENT

'Why bother to learn outside?'

'The classroom is where learning should take place'

'It's too difficult to plan learning in the outdoors'

'School is all about passing their exams'

These are all statements that we have heard in the past but there are many studies that show that outdoor learning has huge benefits for our young people.

In 2008, Ofsted produced a document 'Learning outside the classroom: How far should you go?' Some key findings of this report include;

- When planned and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributed significantly to raising standards & improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development.
- Learning outside the classroom was most successful when it was an integral element of long-term curriculum planning and closely linked to classroom activities.

The Council for Learning outside of the Classroom has identified three key aspects why outdoor learning is hugely beneficial:

- Tackles social mobility, giving children new and exciting experiences that inspire them to reach their true potential. These real world experiences raise aspirations, equipping young people with the skills they need to become active and responsible global citizens and shape a fit and motivated work force;
- Addresses educational inequality, re-motivating children who do not thrive in the traditional class room environment, such as those from disadvantaged backgrounds or with Special Educational Needs. Young people who experience learning outside the classroom as a regular part of their school life benefit from increased self-esteem, and become more engaged in their education both inside and outside the classroom walls;
- Supports improved standards back inside the classroom, raising attainment, reducing truancy and improving discipline. Learning outside the classroom is known to contribute significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development.

There are 10 key outcomes from using outdoor learning that we focus on at St Ives School:

- Enjoyment and fulfilment;
- Confidence & character;
- Health & wellbeing;
- Social & emotional awareness;
- Environmental awareness;
- Activity skills;
- Personal qualities;
- Skills for life;
- Increased motivation for learning;
- Broadened horizons.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME

We are keen for all students to participate in outdoor learning where possible. All of the outdoor learning opportunities listed below are either offered to all students or for selected groups of students.

Year Group	Activity
Year 7 & 8	The John Muir Award
Year 7 & 8	The STAR programme – selected students
Year 8 – 10	The Pegasus Award – selected students
Year 9	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award
Year 10	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award



THE JOHN MUIR AWARD

The John Muir Award is an environmental award scheme open to anyone in year 7 and 8. It encourages students to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild spaces.

Students work in small groups to identify a wild space that they want to work on. There are four key parts to the award:

- Discover a Wild Space – this could be on the school grounds or a wild space in the community;
- Explore it - Do things to increase awareness and understanding. Experience, enjoy and find out more about your wild place(s);
- Conserve it - Take some practical action and personal responsibility;
- Share your experiences - Let others know about it, what has been achieved, what has been learned.

<https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award>



THE STAR PROGRAMME

The STAR Programme stands for the following:

Support
Teamwork
Adventure
Reflect

This programme is a series of different activities and mentor sessions that focus on the following areas:

- Improve social skills such as teamwork, independence, resilience and communication skills;
- Re engage them with school and managing routines;
- Give them a sense of achievement;
- Allow them to reflect on their own work in the classroom;
- Support them in school;
- Give them a sense of adventure.

Students work in a small group each half term and are selected based on discussions with tutors and the Heads of Year about who may benefit from this type of learning and support.



THE PEGASUS AWARD

The Pegasus Award scheme is run for selected students and is a flexible award scheme that can remove barriers to learning and offer opportunities to pupils regardless of their age and ability. There are four strands to the award and are designed to match the individual students. These four strands are:

- Healthy living;
- Helping others;
- Skills for life;
- Exploring the environment.

The award is provided by Tfl Training. Students are selected based on discussions with tutors and the Head of Year about who may benefit from participation in this award.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

The Duke of Edinburgh Award programme is a real adventure from beginning to end. You need to realise there's more to life rather than sitting on a sofa watching life pass you by. You can complete both the Bronze and Silver Award at St Ives School before undertaking the Gold Award at college.

By taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Award, you will improve a range of skills like leadership, teamwork, and independence. You will learn new skills, which will develop confidence; you might find a new passion for something you enjoy. You will get fitter. You will find yourself helping people or the community. You will build resilience. The awards will enhance your CV but more importantly than that you will develop skills you did not know you had and learn a lot about yourself. Employees and Universities recognise the Duke of Edinburgh Award and know the commitment and determination you have to have to achieve it.

Your programme can be full of activities and projects that get you buzzing. You can also be recognised for the wide range of activities you may already be involved in. In addition, along the way you will pick up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with you throughout the rest of your life.

At the end of year 8, you will be invited to start your Bronze Award at the beginning of year 9. A Bronze D of E programme has four sections, Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition. You must do a minimum of 3 months activity for each of the Volunteering, Physical and Skills sections, and plan, train for and do a 2 day (1 night) Expedition. You also have to spend an extra three months on one of the volunteering, physical or skills sections. It is your choice which one.

In Year 10 you can go on to achieve your Silver Award, the next step up from Bronze.

A Silver D of E programme has the same four sections, volunteering, physical, skills and expedition. However for the Silver Award you need to do at least 6 months volunteering and a minimum of 6 months on either physical or skills and 3 months on the other. It is up to you which one you do for longer. The Expedition section involves planning, training for and doing a 3 day (2 night) expedition.

Website Links: www.dofe.org www.edofe.org <https://www.youtube.com/user/theDofEUK>



TEN TORS CHALLENGE

The Ten Tors Challenge is held each year on Dartmoor where 400 teams of young people (6 per team) attempt to navigate routes of 35, 45 and 55 miles over the rough terrain of the North Moor visiting ten nominated tors / check points in under two days. Teams must be self-sufficient, carrying all that they need to complete their route and stay out overnight safely.

Completing Ten Tors is not easy with the terrain, distances and often the climate all conspiring against success. It is though achievable with the right commitment, training, endurance and grit: as the Event's founder once said: "If there is anything more important than the will to succeed, it is that the will shall not falter." (Colonel Gregory, the founder of the Ten Tors Challenge.)

Selection and training starts from October and is open to those in year 10 (for the 35 mile route).

www.tentors.org.uk

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CONTACTS

Mr Gary Olds – Outdoor Education Coordinator & D of E Award Manager

golds@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk

Mr Olds has been at St Ives for several years now and has managed the D of E Award scheme in school since 2015. He has extensive experience of outdoor learning through the voluntary sector, and has over 15 years' experience of supporting/leading D of E in voluntary groups and schools. He has also gained all the D of E Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. He is a qualified Moorland leader, an Outdoor Learning Leader (through the Institute of Outdoor Learning) and the Educational Visits Coordinator.

Miss Jo Holland – D of E Award Coordinator

jholland@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk

Miss Holland supports Mr Olds with running the D of E Award scheme at St Ives and has been volunteering with the award since 2015. She is a qualified Countryside and Coastal Walking leader and has extensive knowledge of the West Penwith area. Not only a keen walker and cyclist but also helps support work with environmental projects and was instrumental in developing our pond area in the school grounds.

Miss Cesca Ryder – Ten Tors Deputy Team Manager

ryder@st-ives.cornwall.sch.uk

Miss Ryder supports both the D of E expeditions and Ten Tors team as a qualified Moorland leader. She has been involved with the Ten Tors team since 2018 and is now supporting Mr Olds as the Deputy Team Manager.