



St Monica's Catholic Primary School **Learning Outside the Classroom**



National Curriculum Information

The National Curriculum states that every state-funded school must offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based, whilst promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school. It goes on to put forward that schools should prepare their pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and the experiences of later life.

As such, Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) can play a vital role in meeting the demands of the National Curriculum. It can be crucial, if used appropriately, in preparing young people for life beyond and after school. Various research and OFSTED reports suggest that 'Outstanding' schools have a history of using residential trips, local area visits, educational visits and visitors and structured play as part of a dynamic whole-school approach.

LOtC can be useful across the curriculum for a variety of reasons and in a wide range of environments, for example:

- Influencing creativity in writing.
- Applying Mathematical reasoning in real world settings.
- Exploring the local environment (Geography/Science).
- Giving context to fieldwork (Science).
- Providing children with real, concrete experiences of different cultures, developing tolerant and educated young people.
- The improvement of spoken language and speaking and listening skills.

On top of providing this balanced curriculum, schools must also ensure that they are making provision for PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education). This is where LOtC comes into its own, providing challenging activities, appealing to a wide range of learning styles and being a powerful instigator of growth on a personal and social level.