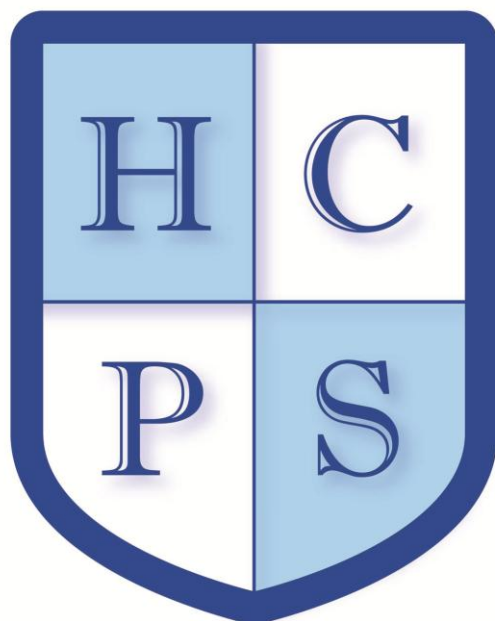


Hunslet Carr Primary School



Outdoor Learning Policy

High Expectations
Caring
Positive Attitude
Successful

Policy reviewed: October 2025

Next review: October 2027



The office blocks of Leeds are visible from our classrooms, and it is our belief and desire that children from Hunslet Carr Primary School should be able to grow up and be successful within their own city. We want our children to aspire to be the lawyers, doctors, and professionals who work in our city every day and to provide them with experiences that inspire their self-belief.

The key to ensuring our children succeed, both while they are pupils at the school and in the future, is having a caring, stimulating, and stable environment in which to enjoy their early years. We work hard to ensure the school allows our pupils to grow into happy, caring members of the community.



What does Impossible is Nothing means to us?

Impossible is Nothing means you can achieve anything when you are resilient and you persevere.

Intent

At Hunslet Carr Primary School, our intent in delivering **Outdoor Learning** and Allotment activities is to:

- Inspire curiosity, creativity, and a sense of adventure by learning in the natural environment.
- Develop pupils' understanding of the natural world, seasonal changes, and ecological systems.
- Promote health, wellbeing, and physical development through active learning outdoors.
- Foster practical skills such as planting, growing, harvesting, and caring for the school allotment.
- Encourage teamwork, resilience, problem-solving, and independence through Forest School-inspired activities.
- Support the school ethos that *impossible is nothing* by enabling children to take risks, explore, and succeed in a safe, structured environment.

Through our scheme, we ensure:

- Outdoor learning is **timetabled weekly**, providing consistent opportunities for engagement with the natural world.
- Activities are progressive and tailored to pupils' age, ability, and prior knowledge.
- All pupils experience hands-on learning that complements classroom teaching across Science, PSHE, DT, and Geography.

Implementation

The teaching of Outdoor Learning at HCPS is built around our **school-based scheme**, integrating Forest School principles and practical allotment activities.

Key features of our implementation include:

- **Weekly Outdoor Learning sessions:** Pupils engage in a range of outdoor activities, including gardening, nature observation, tool-based tasks, and problem-solving games.
- **Forest School principles:** Children are encouraged to explore, take manageable risks, make decisions, and reflect on experiences in a supportive environment.
- **Allotment learning:** Pupils plan, plant, grow, and harvest vegetables, fruits, and herbs in the school allotment, learning responsibility, sustainability, and healthy eating.
- **Cross-curricular links:** Outdoor activities are connected to Science (plants, animals, ecosystems), PSHE (teamwork, resilience, wellbeing), DT (growing and cooking produce), and Geography (seasonal changes, land use).
- **Skill progression:** Children develop outdoor practical skills, including planting, measuring, constructing, observation, and recording findings.

- **Health and safety:** Risk assessments are conducted for all outdoor activities. Children are taught safe use of tools, appropriate clothing, hygiene practices, and boundaries. Staff supervise at all times, and clear safety protocols are in place for activities such as fire-building, use of knives, or harvesting produce.
- **Sustainability and care:** Pupils learn to care for the environment, promote biodiversity, and understand sustainable practices through hands-on experience.

Impact

The impact of our Outdoor Learning and Allotment provision is monitored through:

- **Pupil voice:** Children can discuss what they have learned about nature, sustainability, and practical skills.
- **Teacher assessment:** Observation, questioning, and work recorded in journals or photographs provide evidence of skills and knowledge gained.
- **Learning walks and outdoor monitoring:** Conducted by the subject leader to ensure safety, engagement, and progression.
- **Progress tracking:** Pupils' outdoor and practical skills develop progressively, supporting their personal development, confidence, and resilience.

Expected outcomes:

- Pupils develop a love for the natural environment and an understanding of how to care for it.
- Pupils acquire practical skills in gardening, plant care, and outdoor problem-solving.
- Pupils develop physical confidence, resilience, teamwork, and independence.
- Pupils link outdoor learning to classroom knowledge across multiple subjects.
- Pupils gain awareness of health, safety, and sustainable practices.

SEND

Pupils with SEND are fully included in all Outdoor Learning and Allotment sessions. Activities are differentiated, scaffolded, and adapted to ensure access for all abilities. Vocabulary and instructions are pre-taught, visual prompts are used, and TA support is provided where necessary. Risk assessments are personalised, and tasks are structured to allow every child to participate safely, gain confidence, and achieve success in practical and outdoor learning.