

Learning Outside the Classroom

Philip Morant School Co-curricular Charter



*“... memories of school trips and special events
stay with people for a lifetime ...”*

1 Introduction

At the Philip Morant School and College we believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

2 Definition

We define learning outside the classroom as :

The use of places other than the classroom for teaching and learning.

Some commonly used places are:

- The school grounds
- The local environment and local businesses
- Places further afield
- Residential places

These, often the most memorable learning experiences, help us to make sense of the world around us by making links between feelings and learning. They stay with us into adulthood and affect our behaviour, lifestyle and work. They influence our values and decisions we make. They allow us to transfer learning experienced outside to the classroom and vice versa.

3 What are the educational benefits?

When the use of these places is well planned, safely managed and personalised to meet the needs of every child they can:

- Improve academic achievement
- Provide a bridge to a higher order learning

- Develop skills and independence in a widening range of environments
- Make learning more engaging and relevant to young people
- Develop active citizens and stewards of the environment
- Nurture creativity
- Provide opportunities for informal learning through play
- Reduce behaviour problems, promote good attitudes and improve attendance
- Stimulate, inspire and improve motivation
- Develop the ability to deal with uncertainty
- Provide challenge and the opportunity to take acceptable levels of risk
- Improve young people's attitudes to learning
- Raise aspirations and help our students to capitalise on the career and employment opportunities available to them (reaching the 'Gadsby Benchmarks').

4 What are the school's responsibilities?

- We will provide all our students with a wide range of experiences outside the classroom, including extended school activities. See Section 5
- We will offer learning experiences of agreed high quality (i.e. they are an integral part of our curriculum plan; they have clear and relevant educational objectives and they are assessed for their effectiveness, inclusiveness and value for money).
- We will improve training and professional development opportunities for our staff.
- We will support our staff to manage visits safely and efficiently.
- We will identify ways of engaging parents, carers and the wider community in learning outside the classroom.



5 What experiences do we intend to offer?

The school's intention is to offer a range of experiences to all of its students so that by the age of sixteen, 100% are able to answer 'yes' to six or more of the challenges set out below:

1. I have taken part in a public event - either sports, dance or concert or visual arts.
2. I have taken part in a play, musical or reading that involves either acting, speaking or helping with the production.
3. I have been on an educational visit and experienced a 'live performance'.
4. I have been on an educational visit that involves an overnight stay.
5. I have helped others through voluntary activities.
6. I have been to an artistic or sporting event at a major venue.
7. I have been on an educational visit and improved my understanding of other languages, cultures, faiths and political systems.
8. I have been on an educational visit (field-work) that has improved my knowledge and understanding of either history or geography .
9. I have been on an educational visit that has involved some 'adventure' and 'risk-taking'.
10. I have been on an educational visit and experienced mathematics or cutting-edge science or technology.

6 What work experience and careers advice do we intend to offer?

- Multiple opportunities to learn from employers about work, employment and the skills that are valued in the workplace.
- First-hand experience of the workplace, such as work visits, work experience and/or work shadowing.

(cont...)

- Encounters with universities and other schools, colleges and workplaces (so our students can understand the full range of career-based learning opportunities that are available to them).
- Personal guidance from a career advisor.

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