

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

OUTDOOR LEARNING



USEFUL RESOURCES FOR SCHOOLS

This document contains a list of useful resources (both online and physical) to support and encourage teachers to plan and deliver outdoor learning in their school setting and local green spaces. All information is accurate at March 2025, but may be subject to change after this date.

**Need to convince someone about the benefits of outdoor learning?
Then utilise these recent Reports, case studies, and top tips:**

Learning through Landscapes (LTL) has a number of blog posts to help give you encouragement / inspiration for developing your outdoor learning provision. E.g.
[5 key benefits of outdoor learning](#)
[Our top tips for outdoor learning beginners](#)
[5 barriers to outdoor learning at primary school and how to overcome them](#)
[How to teach any subject outdoors at secondary school](#)
and [Why you should try outdoor learning in 2025](#)

[Transforming outdoor learning in schools | Natural Connections Project \(ltl.org.uk\)](#)
Lessons from the Natural Connections Project. 24-page report, from a 4-year project, 2012-16. Downloadable from the LTL website

[WWW-Impact-Report-2024-FINAL.pdf](#)
A School Impact Report about the 18-month Waterways, Wildlife and Wellbeing project, involving over 500 schools. Published June 2024.

[Links between natural environments, learning and health: evidence briefing - EIN063 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#) (a report for Natural England, Sept 2022)
[Social and economic benefits of learning in natural environments - NECR442 \(naturalengland.org.uk\)](#) (a report for Natural England, Nov 2022, about the impact on both pupils and teachers, of Learning in the Natural Environment)

[Successful Approaches to Learning Outdoors | National thematic inspections | HM Chief Inspector reports and guidance | Inspection and review | Education Scotland](#)
Education Scotland report, highlighting features of effective practice in outdoor learning (Published 22/02/2022. Last updated 27/10/2023)

A collection of recent research into the benefits of outdoor learning in schools:
[Evidence and Research - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom \(lotc.org.uk\)](#)
(this links to several reports, and is likely to be kept updated as new research is published)

Potential funding for developing your outdoor learning provision:

Primary schools can use **Sports Premium Funding** to help fund the development of outdoor learning provision within their school, when this contributes to increasing their physical activity provision. For example, guidance from the Department of Education states that funding can be used for “providing continued professional development (CPD) for all staff”

[PE and sport premium for primary schools - GOV.UK](#)

Learning Through Landscapes (LTL) offer [Local School Nature Grants](#) each year. Each grant provides an assortment of nature equipment up to the value of £500, a two hour outdoor learning training session, a ‘climate curriculum pack’ worth £150, plus access to other discounts and benefits for LTL members.

Applications the 2025 grants are open from 23 January to 4 April, 2025.

Also see [How to write a winning Local School Nature Grant application \(ltl.org.uk\)](#)

The RHS have developed a useful ‘**Guide to funding your school garden**’

[A guide to funding your school garden / RHS Campaign for School Gardening](#)

The comprehensive guide includes:

- The essentials of building and funding a successful project
- Tips on getting started
- Ideas on who can help
- Signposts to different funding routes

Much of the information in this guide is applicable more generally to improving outdoor learning provision and making nature-based improvements in your school grounds.

The Woodland Trust offer **free packs of trees for schools**, from a small collection (15 saplings) of various species known to thrive in urban conditions, to packs of 30 saplings designed to create a hedge or copse, to enough trees (420) to create a woodland the size of a football pitch.

[Free Trees for Schools and Communities - Woodland Trust](#)

The **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC)** has compiled a useful list of various sources of funding available to schools to support learning beyond the classroom:

[Funding and Grants - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom](#)

The **Edina Trust** offers £800 primary school science grants and £550 nursery science grants. Schools can use their grants for science resources, gardening equipment, science weeks, science subscriptions, science visits (into or out of school) and improving school grounds for science.

[Science Grant Scheme | Edina Trust](#)

The **Alpkit Foundation** provides small awards to people, groups and schools that work to remove the barriers in getting outdoors and help people experience the benefits of time spent outdoors.

[Alpkit Foundation | Alpkit](#)

Online resources:

The Peak District National Park's Learning and Discovery Team

[Discover the Peak District: Peak District National Park](#)

The Learning and Discovery Team offer varied educational programmes, and family and community events that enable people to discover, explore and enjoy the special qualities of the Park

We run a popular (always over-subscribed) programme of Educational Visits to the National Park, for ages from EYFS up to A-Level and beyond: [Education visits: Peak District National Park](#)

We also:

- deliver Teacher Training sessions about Outdoor Learning: [Outdoor Learning CPD \(Teacher Training\): Peak District National Park](#)
- Provide information and support to schools who wish to conduct their own self-led visits: [Planning a self-led school visit: Peak District National Park](#)
- and have collated a range of learning resources and support materials for teachers: [Resources for Teachers: Peak District National Park](#)

We are also able to work with and support local schools through our [Ambassador Schools Programme](#), and have a separate set of resources designed specifically at supporting these local schools, but which are available for free to all: [Ambassador School Resources : Peak District National Park](#)

Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC)

[Council for Learning Outside the Classroom \(lotc.org.uk\)](http://lotc.org.uk)

The Council for Learning Outside the Classroom is a national charity that champions all learning that happens beyond the classroom

The website contains lots of free advice, resources and activity ideas to support teachers. This includes a dedicated page on 'Starting your Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Journey' which includes a downloadable audit tool, and a staff survey:

[Starting your LOtC Journey - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom](#)

[CLOtC Membership](#) (£130 for schools) provides access to even more resources, training, and support, including free access to recordings from previous online training sessions: [Recorded CPD - Council for Learning Outside the Classroom \(lotc.org.uk\)](#)

Countryside Classroom resources

This site contains over 800 resources (almost all are free) provided by multiple sources, and searchable by key stage, subject, theme, etc.

[Teaching Resources | Countryside Classroom](#)

Creative Star Learning

[Creative STAR Learning | I'm a teacher, get me OUTSIDE here!](#)

Lots of practical ideas about learning and playing outdoors that have been written and/or curated by Juliet Robertson – a former education consultant who specialised in learning and play outside.

Maths Focus:

[Maths Outdoors | Creative STAR Learning | I'm a teacher, get me OUTSIDE here!](#)

Which includes case studies, videos, and many ideas for maths activities outdoors, including:

- Really useful 11-mins video, providing “10 tips to lift the learning and the joy of exploring maths outside” (creative ideas and practical tips) [Maths Week Scotland Outdoor Maths](#)
- *Interview - a teacher’s experience of running 100 maths lessons outdoors over 3 months (having never taught outside before)* [100 Maths Sessions Outside | Creative STAR Learning](#)

Literacy Focus:

[Literacy Outdoors | Creative STAR Learning | I'm a teacher, get me OUTSIDE here!](#)

Digimap for Schools

Digimap for Schools provides students and teachers with digital access to modern day and historic maps (worldwide) and detailed aerial imagery to enable the teaching of Geography – and much more.

£114 yearly subscription for Primary, £184 for Secondary (this covers use on an unlimited number of computers / devices), with a 30-day free trial offer.

[Digimap For Schools \(edina.ac.uk\)](#)

Includes a library of free resources and activity ideas: [The Learning Resources](#)

E.g. ‘Progression in Mapping’ (Primary) [Progression in Mapping \(edina.ac.uk\)](#)

The Ordnance Survey have partnered with Digimap for Schools, to fund a FREE 2-year subscription to any school which currently has an Ofsted rating of 3 (requires improvement) or 4 (inadequate)

<https://digimapforschools.edina.ac.uk/about/ofsted>

GA (Geographical Association)

Teaching resources, training, and journals; for understanding and teaching geography across all Key Stages. Many resources and journals (including “Primary Geography”) are free for members.

Primary school group membership £62pa, Secondary school group membership £139pa.

E.g. see [Early years and primary curriculum](#) and [Key stage 3 geography curriculum](#)

Search the teaching resources here: [Teaching Resources \(geography.org.uk\)](#)

Some resources are free to all, some are only available for members.

In 2023/24, the GA partnered with Oak National Academy to produce a suite of new Geography curriculum resources, available for free to all schools:

Primary: [KS1-2 geography curriculum unit sequence](#)

Secondary AQA: [KS3-4 geography AQA curriculum unit sequence](#)

Secondary Edexcel B: [KS3-4 geography Edexcel B curriculum unit sequence](#)

The GA encourages all schools to take part in National Fieldwork Fortnight, which takes place each year in June. There are free resources for all [on a dedicated section of their website.](#)

If you are keen to develop your fieldwork, there are lots of interesting articles and useful information about Geography Fieldwork and Outdoor Learning, here: [Fieldwork and outdoor learning - Geographical Association \(geography.org.uk\)](#)

Institute for Outdoor Learning (IOL)

The IOL's 'Teaching Hub' brings together current ideas reflecting both practice and academic research from across the field of outdoor learning.

The Teaching Hub collates good practice, professional development and resources for professionals in outdoor learning who work with or for children's services and education, including early years, schools, higher and further education, apprenticeships and wider skills in the UK

[Teaching Hub](#)

Learning Through Landscapes (LTL) is a leading UK-based charity dedicated to enhancing outdoor learning and play for children.

[Outdoor learning ideas](#) | [Outdoor Lesson ideas](#) | [LTL](#)

Free resources and lesson ideas. Can be filtered by Key Stage, specific age group, and curriculum area. For Early Years, Primary, and Secondary.

LTL can also provide support for developing your school grounds e.g. [School Grounds Audit Tool](#), and further training. LTL [School Membership](#) costs £300 per year – this provides free access to additional resources and a discount on their training courses (25% discount for in-person training, 50% discount for online training), equipment and books.

LTL offer [training](#) for teachers/schools, both in-person and [online training courses](#). E.g. "[Principles of Outdoor Learning and Play](#)" suggested time to complete: 3 hours, cost £10.

Muddy Faces

[Home](#) | [Muddy Faces](#)

A useful source of information, activity ideas, and a one-stop shop for a wide variety of Forest School and Outdoor Play equipment, educational resources, and outdoor clothing. Their [Outdoor Hub](#) is a massive free resource filled with activities, information and events to support you to get outdoors.

National Education Nature Park

[Home](#) | [Education Nature Park](#)

Launched in Autumn 2023, this project is open to all schools and other education establishments in England. Pupils map the habitats in their school grounds and survey what's living or growing there. They then plan and make improvements for both wildlife and people, and continue to monitor what's living and growing in the outdoor spaces.

The programme provides curriculum linked resources, and allows pupils to develop scientific skills as they contribute to a country-wide scientific study through community science.

OEAP (The Outdoor Education Advisor's Panel)

<https://oeapng.info>

The Outdoor Education Advisers' Panel (OEAP) provides guidance, activities, training and support for outdoor learning and educational visits

The [Documents](#) section is particularly useful, containing dozens of useful guidance documents relating to outdoor education and school visits, all cross-referenced against different roles (e.g. Visits Leader, Assistant Leader, Education Visits Co-ordinator)

Ordinance Survey (OS)

The OS have created a number of free resources for teachers, to help students grasp map reading, and expand place knowledge. Resources for Early Years, Primary, and Secondary. [Education | Free resources for teachers \(ordnancesurvey.co.uk\)](#)

E.g. 'Map Reading Made Easy' (pdf) [map-reading-made-easy \(ordnancesurvey.co.uk\)](#)

And printable OS Map Symbol flashcards (12-page pdf): [25k-map-symbol-flashcards](#)

There are even more free resources about teaching map skills to children on the OS 'Get Outside' website: [Map reading skills for children](#)

And everything from beginners to advanced map skills guides here: [Free Map Reading Guides - National Map Reading Week](#)

Outdoor Classroom Day

<https://outdoorclassroomday.org.uk>

Outdoor Classroom Day is a global movement to make time outdoors part of every child's day. On two days of action each year, teachers take children outdoors to play and learn. All year round, the Outdoor Classroom Day community campaigns for more time outdoors every day.

The website contains a [Resources](#) area with lots of activity ideas to get you inspired, and when you sign up to pledge to take part in Outdoor Classroom Day your school's location will be added to a [global map](#) of schools and households taking part – allowing you to quickly connect with other like-minded teachers and educators in your local area.

There are 2 Outdoor Classroom days every year, usually in May and November. 2025 dates are Thursday 8th May and Thursday 6th November.

Woodland Trust's free online learning Hub for schools: "Tree Tools for Schools"

Free colourful printable ID sheets within the "Activities" Section (these excellent resources used to be called "Nature Detectives activities")

<http://www.treetoolsforschools.org.uk/>

e.g. Leaf Spotter Sheet [Leaf identification for kids - Nature Detectives](#)

Garden bird ID dial [Garden bird identification guide for kids](#)

and [Signs of Spring spotter sheet](#)

There are also a selection of simple online games and learning activities.

Physical resources: A selection of recently published books, and other resources, to support outdoor based curriculum teaching

National Curriculum Outdoors

A set of 5 books; covering KS1, and Y3, Y4, Y5, Y6.

Each book contains a complete scheme of work for the specified year group, with a series of lesson plans for each curriculum subject.

Available as hardcopies RRP £29.99 each, or pdf ebook, £26.99 each direct from the publisher, [Bloomsbury](#) (Bloomsbury are currently offering a saving of 10% off, for both paperback and ebook versions, when purchased via their website)

Published June 2020

Also see this useful overview of progression by subject: [NC Outdoors series overview.pdf \(bloomsbury.com\)](#)

Teaching the Primary Curriculum Outdoors

By Learning through Landscapes

Learning through Landscapes has three decades of experience supporting teachers with the everyday challenges of teaching outdoors. Through this real life understanding of teaching and step by step guidance, this book shows you that every curriculum subject in primary schools can be taught outdoors.

RRP £21.99, Published June 2022

[Teaching the Primary Curriculum Outdoors a book by Learning through Landscapes.](#)

A Creative Approach to Teaching Science Outdoors

The what, why and how of teaching science outdoors

By Dr Sai Pathmanathan and Dr Penny Fletcher.

This book is filled with exciting and innovative ways to teach physics, chemistry and biology throughout primary – all in the great outdoors!

RRP £16.99 paperback, £15.29 ebook. Published February 2025.

[A Creative Approach to Teaching Science Outdoors](#)

(Bloomsbury are currently offering a saving of 10% off when purchased via their website)

OEAP Outdoor Learning Cards

(50 laminated cards, 36-page handbook, plus digital download)

[Outdoor Learning Handbook & Cards \(harveymaps.co.uk\)](#)

The Outdoor Learning Cards activities contribute directly to a wide range of educational and development aims for young people and cover elements of outdoor learning that can be delivered on a school/youth club site and surrounding environment.

£79.00 for the full set (50 laminated cards, 36-page handbook, plus digital download)

This resources list has been compiled by:
Peak District National Park – Learning and Discovery Team

www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about

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