

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
**OUTDOOR EDUCATION &
LEARNING STRATEGY 2022**

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES



Warwickshire
County Council

Foreword

Welcome to Warwickshire County Council's (WCC) Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy.

For this strategy, WCC defines Outdoor Education and Learning as:

"Learning through purposeful activities, experiences or challenges which predominantly take place outdoors and are organised by an education setting".

WCC values the education and learning that takes place outdoors and how making connections between nature, people, learning, and skills is a key element of how children and young people learn and develop.

WCC want all children and young people in Warwickshire to have the opportunity to access the experiences that are best for their development throughout their education journey and beyond.

With the emphasis on and promotion of outdoor education and learning through this strategy, WCC are seeking to encourage and further equip education providers as they deliver the environmental context for our children.



Our Vision and Approach

WCC's ambition is for all children and young people to have access to and enjoy high-quality outdoor education and learning.

This strategy identifies how WCC will work with education settings (0-25) to promote and embed a culture of outdoor activities and challenges that stimulate learning.

Education settings have told us about their outdoor education and learning, including the challenges faced and their thoughts about how WCC might support and enhance their offer.

The Child Friendly Warwickshire Survey (2021) told us that children and young people want to prioritise improvements to play, leisure and cultural activities and these have become focus areas for Warwickshire's Children and Young People Strategy (2021-2030).

The Outdoor Education and Learning Strategy has natural links to other Warwickshire County Council's strategies namely: Health & Wellbeing, Voluntary & Community Sector, Green Spaces, Climate Change, Children and Young People and our support for Employability and Careers.



WCC's vision is that:

- All children and young people have access to and enjoy high-quality outdoor education and learning, appropriate for their age, ability, and experience.
- Educators value and embed outdoor education and learning in their curriculum planning.
- Education settings provide regular, frequent, enjoyable, and challenging opportunities for all children and young people to learn outdoors.
- A culture of outdoor education and learning is developed within all education settings, raising awareness of the importance of the outdoors for leisure and learning for both children and their families.

Objectives

WCC will:

- encourage and support education settings to deliver their outdoor education and learning by providing information.
- develop an on-line directory of outdoor venues and activity providers who offer high quality outdoor education and learning opportunities.
- signpost online resources useful for the planning and coordination of outdoor education and learning.
- provide an opportunity for education leaders to share best practice and inspire each other and all their children and young people in the pursuit of education and learning outdoors, enabling inclusion.
- survey children and young people and education settings on an annual basis to understand their needs and wants of Outdoor Education and Learning
- establish a collaborative professional development network for Leads of Outdoor Education and Learning/ Educational Visits Co-ordinators and encourage all education settings to make a commitment to actively engage.
- promote access for disadvantaged pupils to outdoor education and learning opportunities by signposting to advice, funding sources and best practice information on promoting inclusion.
- Raise awareness among education leaders of local environmental issues and their relationship to the global climate by strengthening the links between nature, people, learning and skills.
- build on the experience of education providers, to enable the development of local services, facilities and activities, and to strengthen the provision of outdoor education and learning opportunities.
- act as a link between education settings, County, District and Borough Council teams (e.g. those providing outdoor facilities, or who can offer information and support for learning outdoors), as well as wider stakeholders both within and outside of Warwickshire.
- facilitate the provision by the Council and others of lifelong education and learning opportunities outdoors.

Measuring Success

Education leaders report:

- They have engaged with the support available to them through the strategy.
- They feel better equipped to deliver outdoor education and learning.
- They have strengthened their outdoor education and learning offer.
- Children and young people, including disadvantaged pupils, are developing the skills they need to flourish in life through the outdoor education and learning opportunities that they provide.
- Children and young people have the opportunity to be heard and their views contribute to developing outdoor learning.

Children and young people report:

- They have increasing opportunities to learn outdoors.
- They have had increased positive experiences from engaging in outdoor activities and opportunities.

WCC will review the Strategy in 2024/25 and will take into account the learning and progress against the Delivery Plan.

