

Grow In Residence - The Curriculum Outdoors

(Curriculum topics: Science, Geography, Maths, English, D&T, Art and Design)

During a yearlong residency outdoor learning is tailored to your school and takes place weekly or fortnightly; providing frequent, continuous and progressive learning for children plus training opportunities for staff to be able to continue once the project finishes.

Grow recognises the many barriers to outdoor learning and confidently offer the skill sets and resources to create a sustainable pathway for your staff.



The project is written in collaboration with staff to ensure sessions complement classroom learning giving children access to some of their most memorable learning experiences. They help them make sense of the world around them, grow in confidence and resilience, build better relationships and put learning into a meaningful context. Harder to reach pupils will gain from this opportunity helping to raise attainment and to close the gap between higher and lower achievers.

In line with our core mission a yearlong residency will support your school to take the curriculum outside the classroom and:

- Enable your school to view and use your outside space more imaginatively. This can include design and installation of infrastructure or simply using what you have available in a different way – it need not cost the earth
- Work closely with your staff to enhance and compliment classroom learning through inspired, creative interpretation of your existing planning
- Share resources and session plans to help your teachers take learning outdoors into the future
- Put children in touch with where their food comes from through growing, cooking and eating it
- Help children learn about and care for the natural environment by understanding its importance and human interaction with it
- Facilitate greater use of locally accessible local green spaces and the learning resource they provide

For more information, a quote and a complete breakdown of the year's activities please contact Grow. (Day rate £200)

A YEAR AT ST THOMAS

Our remit was to work with staff to plan and deliver an outdoor learning programme that dovetailed with the school's curriculum and enriched the children's learning.

To achieve this Grow attended school planning sessions to ensure that each one supported the learning taking place in the classroom. Topics were investigated and supported with maths and literacy when it was felt that the year group needed additional learning in these areas. Below is an example of a half term with St. Thomas school:



Spring 1 Topic: Stig of the Dump - learning about the stone age

This half term topic took children on a journey of discovery, stepping back in time they learnt the rules of survival while at the same time discovering the wonder of rocks and soil.

Making full use of nearby public woodland the children built shelters, created fires and traps for animals, made musical instruments and body paint to camouflage themselves from warring tribes. The children used scientific experiment, observation and classification techniques to identify different types of stone and linked this knowledge to the importance and make up of soils.

Curriculum topics covered:

Science: Rocks and Soil

History: Stone age to Iron age

English: Non - chronological report writing based on their experiences

D and T: Make, evaluate and improve technical knowledge

Geography: Human and physical features and geographical skills

Seeing the children developing team skills and their sheer joy and excitement of exploring and learning outside in the natural environment is one of the most rewarding aspects of our role in schools. One child highlighted the empowerment they felt when given the freedom and responsibility to learn outdoors with the comment: "I like working with Grow, you show me how, and make me feel like I can do things."

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