

Subject Statement

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC)



Why do we study this subject at ACE Tiverton?

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) gives students the opportunity to experience success in areas outside of a traditional curriculum. LOtC helps encourage an interest in nature and the outdoors allowing students to use all their senses whilst enjoying a feeling of freedom and independence away from the confines of normal classroom walls. LOtC improves students physical, mental, and emotional development as well as reducing any concerns they may have about being outdoors. When teaching takes place outside it is often not perceived as “learning” which encourages further participation and engagement, this in turn allows staff and students to develop high quality relationships through shared meaningful experiences outside the traditional classroom. The skills and thinking gained during LOtC can often be applied in a real-world context with visible and tangible results – these skills are often transferable and can be applied into and throughout adult life. LOtC requires students to make informed choices and understand and take responsibility for their actions.

What qualifications can I achieve in this subject?

ACE LOtC Wilderness Awards
 WILD Passport
 NNAS Awards (navigation)
 NICAS Awards (rock climbing)
 National Outdoor Learning Award
 John Muir Award
 The Duke of Edinburgh Award
 British Canoeing Personal Performance Awards
 St Johns Ambulance First Aid certificates and Call Push Rescue
 ASDAN Key Steps
 ASDAN short courses Gardening Award and Environmental Award

What skills will I learn and practice in this subject?

Students will take part in a range of outdoor activities, each with their own set of hard (technical) skills, such as map reading, lighting fires, gardening and tying knots. Alongside these hard skills students will develop soft (personal) skills including increased self-esteem, resilience, confidence, organisation, teamwork, environmental awareness, and independence. LOtC allows students to test themselves against the environment and the demands of the activity, rather than peers, which helps develop these skills and their character.

What jobs and post 16 education opportunities can I go on to do with this subject?

Whilst LOTC can lead to obvious choices like studying Sport and Outdoor Activities at college or taking up an Apprenticeship the soft skills such as teamwork and resilience are transferrable into many courses and careers helping students into and throughout their adult life. Other LOTC activities may help foster hobbies and interests from studying insects to rock climbing and canoeing.

What else should I know about this subject?

LOTc is a very broad topic and students will study a range of practical skills as well as learning to appreciate, explore and conserve the environment. This allows a certain level of freedom for students to expand and explore areas of the natural world or topics that interest them. The current ACE LOTc Wilderness Award has been designed in consultation with current students and what they wanted to experience.

Do I need any specific resources or kit for this subject?

Students do not require any specialist equipment to take part in LOTc lessons. However, we will be outside, weather permitting, so students should come to school prepared for the weather on day which could be waterproof jacket and warm clothes or a sun hat. We have a selection of waterproof jackets students can borrow. Students should be prepared to get a little bit muddy during the winter months (a spare pair of trainers or wellies can be useful – we have wellies that can be borrowed). When making more adventurous visits off-site, parents and students will be informed well in advance so they can wear more suitable and comfortable clothes rather than school uniform.