

Why should you take learning outdoors and treat children and young people to a residential experience at Austerfield Study Centre?

Outdoor and residential learning take learning beyond the boundaries of the classroom and are often remembered for a lifetime because they are:

- Adventurous
- Challenging
- Enjoyable

Spending time away from the home environment gives children and young people the opportunity to live more independently alongside others; they learn new social skills, share free time, make decisions, take ownership of learning and engage with staff and peers at a deeper level to build positive, sustainable relationships. They also experience a remarkable sense of freedom, setting their own agenda close to nature.



First-hand experience of outdoor learning inspires passion – motivating our children and young people to become successful learners and to develop as healthy, confident, enterprising, resilient and responsible citizens

Bringing together children or young adults for several days for a hands-on minds-on experience provides an environment where people can explore ideas, grow in confidence and self-esteem, improve their performance and self-awareness, develop a strong sense of community. Living together, sharing and working with others also nurtures mutual respect, appreciation of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle and develops solution-based thinking skills.

Outdoor and residential learning are:

- **Smarter** - encourage learners to develop critical thinking skills.
- **Healthier** - contribute to improved physical and emotional wellbeing.
- **Safer and stronger** - help to span social divisions and build stronger communities. They also provide children and young people with the opportunity to develop skills to assess and manage risk when making decisions.
- **Greener** - provide the opportunity to engage with natural heritage, understand the global significance of sustainability and inform personal decisions that contribute to a greener world.
- **Fairer** - awareness of a wide range of skills and abilities fundamentally changes personal, peer and staff perceptions and can lead to profound changes in life expectations and success.

Providing inspirational, memorable experiences to help children and young people prepare themselves for productive, successful and happy adult lives is what we do best.

And remember, in the words of Sir Tim Brighouse, former London schools' commissioner.

'For some children a week's residential experience is worth more than a term at school.'

More reasons to get children outside

Kids won't remember their best day of TV, but they will remember all those adventures they had outdoors.

Albert Einstein "Play is the highest form of research"



"Outside. The original and best play station ever"

"You can learn more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation" Plato

...evidence indicates that direct exposure to nature is essential for physical and emotional health. For example, new studies suggest that exposure to nature may reduce the symptoms of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)...

Louv, R, 2009, Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, London, Atlantic Books

"The benefits of the outdoor classroom are clearly not confined to students. Teachers noted improved relationships with students, personal development in the teaching and curriculum benefits."

Dillon et al, 2005, Engaging and Learning with the Outdoors: The Final Report of the Outdoor Classroom in a Rural Context Action Research Project, Reading, NFER.
www.bath.ac.uk/cree/resources/OCR.pdf

"... outdoor learning may be particularly beneficial for children who struggle to maintain concentration in more formal classroom settings and actively seek out ways to introduce direct experience into their learning."

Waite, S. (2010) Losing our way?: declining outdoor opportunities for learning for children aged between 2 and 11. Journal of Adventure Education and Outdoor Learning. 10 (2), 111-126. <https://pearl.plymouth.ac.uk//handle/10026.1/5476>

Must we always teach our children with books? Let them look at the mountains and the stars up above. Let them look at the beauty of the waters and the trees and flowers on earth. They will then begin to think, and to think is the beginning of a real education. - David Polis



With all these examples of positive outcomes, why don't you call us today?