



## Learning Outside the Classroom

### What is Learning Outside the Classroom?

Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) is the use of places other than the usual classroom for teaching and learning. This could include the school grounds; a visit to local places such as religious buildings, shops and natural spaces; and further afield on day visits to museums, heritage sites, theatres, field and adventure centres and residential journeys. It also includes experiences brought into school through visitors, theme days/weeks and events.

### How does Learning Outside the Classroom work at Wheatcroft?

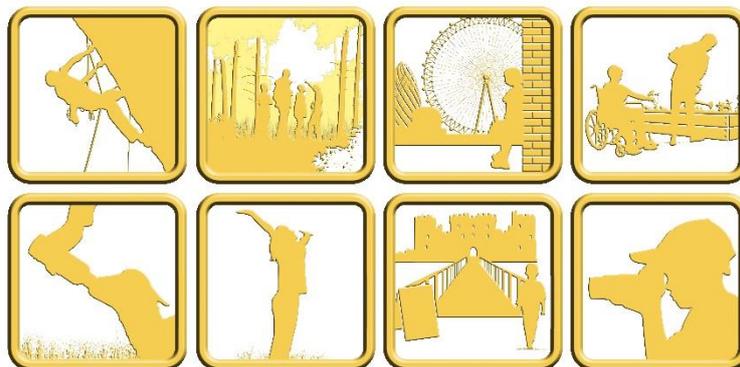
Wheatcroft School is committed to ensuring all pupils take part in trips and experiences to enrich the curriculum and make learning fun. LOtC is used to engage the children and deliver certain aspects of the curriculum such as habitat studies and work related to animals and plants. It is also used to engage pupils in concepts that are more easily understood through experience such as firefighting. Some elements of LOtC follow a termly plan; however, we also run one off lessons such as being outside finding evidence of food chains, when the time is right within the year. We have a rich historical and geographical culture in Hertford and trips have included a river study in Hartham Common, visits to Hertford Castle, Hertford Museum and All Saints Church. The school also visits places further afield such as Cedar's Park, Southend Sea Life Centre and Celtic Harmony Camp. Children in Year 5 and 6 have the opportunity to take part in residential journeys too. The school has a wealth of visitors come and speak with the children, including a space scientist, members of the local community such as police, air ambulance and nurses as well as local leaders such as the Mayor of Hertford. We hold themed days and weeks to support curriculum topics, e.g. Beatrix Potter Day, as well as to celebrate events from the wider world such as World Book Day and Science Week. We also get involved in charity and fund raising events e.g. Rotary Club gift boxes and a Skipathon. Wheatcroft is blessed with woodland as part of the grounds and the children take part in forest school sessions and events and use the woodland for lessons such as habitat studies and shelter building. A full range of activities is included through outdoor learning covering a range of curriculum areas, age groups and abilities. EYFS children go outside to the forest school area every week, where they work on gross and fine motor skills and begin their discovery of the outside world. We ensure all learning styles are considered during our curriculum planning. An overview of LOtC opportunities is recorded so we can ensure a broad and varied progression of experiences for all pupils across the years

### What are the benefits of Learning Outside the Classroom?

LOtC provides students with opportunities to access high quality learning beyond the classroom. These experiences can help them understand the world around them and develop skills to help them become good citizens. These opportunities will enhance academic attainment and personal development through resilience, perseverance and team work. It will also support their health and well-being, and spiritual, moral, social and cultural needs. *LOtC is known to contribute significantly to raising standards and improving pupils' personal, social and emotional development. It also contributes to the quality and depth of learning* (OFSTED, Learning Outside the Classroom - How far should you go? 2008).

## What is the LOtC Mark?

Wheatcroft School has received national recognition for its commitment to taking learning outside the classroom and has been awarded the national LOtC Mark (Gold) by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, the highest award of its kind. Awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC), LOtC Mark (Gold) recognises exemplary LOtC provision in schools and indicates that a school is a leader in ensuring that all pupils have access to frequent, continuous and progressive learning outside the classroom to support their learning and achievement. The LOtC Mark recognises existing exemplary provision and assists and supports schools in developing their LOtC offer to enable all children to have access to meaningful LOtC experiences. The LOtC Mark is the only national accreditation for schools which recognises, and supports, the development of learning outside the classroom across all subject areas.



# Gold LOtC Mark