

**[How can the outdoor mandate group create a legal  
to impact teaching and learning?]**

**Summary and Recommendations of the Project**



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# Introduction

[Insert an overview of why you choose the project link this to - the SIP.]

The project was chosen to highlight the need for mandate groups in relation to the Schools improvement plan part 2.1 *'Use mandate groups to bring around rapid sustained improvement'*. Being the leader of the particular outdoor mandate group I felt it necessary to highlight the impact outdoor learning can have on teaching and learning within school. The project was also chosen as I believe that outdoor learning and through mandate groups, it can be a lever for mass co-operation between subject areas and teachers. This links to 2.4 of the school improvement plan *'To become a centre of excellence for co-production.'* The project will look how working closely together with other organisations, subjects and partners can influence the improvement for teaching and learning but also the impact it will have on pupils academic, social and emotional well-being.



# Recommendation 1

[Insert a summary of your project here. What did you do each term? Did your project change, what was your plan (Use your termly planning and impact reports here)]

Throughout the spring term the main focus was looking at how outdoor learning can be used in existing areas, how can outdoor learning be established and how can outdoor learning be maintained to create a legacy. Other settings were visited and teaching and learning opportunities were explored. The initial plan was to utilise the skills set of existing staff and through the outdoor mandate group explore different opportunities for pupils to use the outdoor areas.

An outdoor resource room had been created for classes to utilise resources and to explore various areas of the grounds including pond and the woodland areas. An initial focus looked at creating links to businesses and organisations. A summer house had been ordered so that it can be utilised as an outdoor classroom, links with Bunnings was created and ongoing discussions are taking place to offer community days and donations and outdoor learning days were in the school calendar to use the outdoor areas.

In the summer term, outdoor learning spaces took shape with the outdoor classroom and other spaces developed. Outdoor learning days took place as a whole school event and areas and resources were developed. Leadership throughout different classes were evident during these days and this enforces the whole school approach of 'Lion Leadership'.



[What will be the First Recommendation for practice across school and Why]

To have an outdoor learning council that involves a key member of staff and pupils from throughout the school.

This will reinforce the Lion Leadership throughout the school and for pupils and staff to work together to create a legacy in school. This will create a sense of ownership for the outdoor areas and to ensure outdoor areas are used and looked after appropriately.

Class teams will be more likely to use outdoor areas and ensure that the areas are kept safe and free from waste. Much more learning opportunities will be able to take place and more sharing of good practice can be shared amongst teachers.

After a review of twitter and pupil poll, pupils prefer to work outdoors immersed in their learning and therefore to ensure that pupils are taking ownership of the areas is an important factor. It will ensure that learning can take place.

Knight (2013) reinforces the fact the children and pupils need to build learning power and to learn in different ways and to ensure pupils succeed.

# Recommendation 2

[What will be the second recommendation for practice across school and why]

Outdoor learning opportunities to feature on Medium Term Plans (MTP).

<i>Success Criteria (SC) for groups with pupil initials identified</i>	<i>NC Levels</i>	<i>Activities enable pupils to demonstrate progress towards SC</i>	
<i>Engage Phase</i> Week 1:	Current Attainment  Target grades	Week 1:	
<i>Develop Phase</i> Week 2:		Outdoor learning opportunity	Area to use: Resources required: Overall learning outcome:
		Week 2:	
		Week 3:	

Under each week activities, an opportunity to highlight whether or not outdoor learning can take place, area to be used, resources required and what the outcome will be (I can statements).

This will help staff plan for the half term ahead and ensure outdoor learning areas are being utilised to the fullest. To have prompts in MTP's, can aid planning as this gives an opportunity to learn and teach in different ways. It can ensure a legacy is being established as outdoor areas will be used more.



## ***Recommendation 3***

[What will be your Third recommendation for practice across school and why]

Please note that there may not be 3 recommendations or there could be more. Delete or add as appropriate



## *How the project effected my practice*

The project has enabled me to look at outdoor learning in a different way and how learning opportunities can be developed within lessons and throughout school.

It has helped me to look at outdoor learning as a vehicle to enable learning to take place. My personal practice has been developed as my leadership style has changed as by leading a team and having ownership of a project has enabled be to be more direct and responsible.

The project has definitely enabled myself to look at leadership opportunities within school and be more of a well rounded teacher and leader within school. I have been able to transfer my skills that I have acquired as well as enhance existing ones.



## Next Steps

[Insert the next steps for the project, it may be that this is to see the recommendations take place, it may also be that the next steps be the focus of your new project related to the SIP]

The Next steps is to ensure that the recommendations take place and to monitor outdoor areas to ensure that resources are kept appropriately and well equipped.

An outdoor learning council is essential and this links to 2.4 of the school improvement plan '*To become a centre of excellence for co-production*. The council will be able to work with existing links and create new links in the community and other organisations.



# References

<http://www.ourlady-stjosephs.rotherham.sch.uk/curriculum/outdoor-learning>

Knight, S, (2013), '*Forest School and outdoor learning in the early years*' London, Sage Publications.

