

## 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 appetite for nature and the outdoors and allows students to use all their senses whilst enjoying a sense of freedom and independence away from the confines of walls. Learning outside 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” and the skills and thinking learnt during LOtC can often be applied in a real-world context with visible and tactile 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. LOtC enables staff and students to develop high quality relationships through shared meaningful experiences outside of the traditional classroom.

#### What qualifications can I achieve in this subject?

ACE LotC Wilderness Awards  
 NNAS – Outdoor Discovery Award  
 National Outdoor Learning Award  
 John Muir Awards  
 Prince’s Trust Achieve Award  
 ASDAN Key Steps  
 ASDAN Environmental Award (short course)  
 ASDAN Gardening Award (short course)  
 ASDAN Adventure and Residential (short course)  
 NCFE Level 1 Award in Personal and Social Development  
 The Duke of Edinburgh Award  
 St Johns Ambulance First Aid certificates and Call Push Rescue  
 Certificates from a number of NGB’s including BCU and NICAS

#### 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 such as studying Sport and Outdoor Activities at college or taking up an Apprenticeship the soft skills such as teamwork and resilience will benefit students into and throughout their adult life. Other LOtC activities may help foster hobbies and interests from studying insects to rock climbing.

**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. There are no set curriculum expectations for LOtC which allows a certain level of freedom for students to expand and explore on areas of the natural world 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 with a waterproof jacket and be prepared to get a little bit muddy. 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.