



Liberton High School: Building Confidence and Progression in Learning beyond the School

Key Facts

Where: On the southern side of Edinburgh with views across the city towards Arthur's Seat.

School Roll: 650 approx.

What: A supported role in Outdoor Learning was created in order to develop opportunities in its extensive grounds.

Summary:

A number of positive programmes of work have been established at the school which look to adopt an approach which builds progression into learning. Geography in particular has begun with work in the classroom and the immediate outdoor environment (school grounds), before taking the learning further afield into the local area (applying and adding to skills and knowledge). Finally, learning is taken into the wider environment on extended trips away from the school (e.g. Arthur's Seat) where the pupils can further apply knowledge and skills gained. This is not regarded simply as a 'day out', but part of a carefully planned and structured learning progression.

Spaces around the school are also being developed for a number of purposes. There is a small enclosed courtyard which is home to the school hens, which are fed and looked after each day by pupils. There is a school garden containing raised beds which is used as a potting shed / greenhouse by the Eco Schools Group. Young orchards, planted to a pupil design, are on the south side of the school on the slopes above the tarmac.

The geography department, whose teacher is the lead for outdoor learning, are driving the use of a large tarmac space at the rear of the school. To develop the space, pupils have designed outdoor classrooms which will be taken forward and built.

Many other opportunities are being made to take learning outdoors throughout the school. As a way of ensuring continuation of their good work, departments and faculties will work together to evaluate what has been done so far, and identify ways to embed and extend outdoor learning across the curriculum.

Education Benefit:

- Pupils who work regularly outside are developing a sense of place and a sense of connection and pride in their school grounds
- Pupils appear engaged with their learning, and are themselves providing feedback to ensure development and progression

Key Messages

- **The role of a lead in outdoor learning was supported by the Council. This provides time and resource for staff development and collaboration**
- **Pupils can build skills in the safe and familiar school environment, which can then be applied further afield, perhaps in more challenging environments**
- **Make Outdoor Learning part of the daily routine. Ensure that general consents and permission forms are completed at the start of the year, and kept centrally so there is no need to issue extra paperwork**