



LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

**EDUCATION IN A
DIFFERENT FORM**



The **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom** is the national voice for learning outside the classroom. They believe that every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability or circumstances.

They define learning outside the classroom as:

“The use of places other than the classroom for teaching and learning. It is about getting young people out of the confines of the classroom, and providing them with challenging, exciting and different experiences to help them learn.”

Quality Badge awarded by



 www.lotc.org.uk

THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Learning outside the classroom is a subject that is becoming increasingly discussed and relevant in schools and colleges. Teachers and governing bodies are recognising the importance of this style of learning, and are looking at new ways to introduce it and make it part of their school's offering. Schools are being encouraged to integrate it into their planning for all pupils on a weekly basis, year-round. It is a powerful facility which has been shown to raise standards, improve personal, emotional and social development, and contribute to the well-being of young people.

WHAT IS LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM?

Learning outside the classroom can encompass many things; not just day trips out of school but **school expeditions** abroad to places that many students will not have even heard of before. Learning outside the classroom can happen almost anytime and anywhere - outdoors or indoors: within the school grounds, in the local town, in the nearby park, in museums and art galleries, on mountain tops and rivers, in Britain's remote places, or in different countries around the world.

OPINIONS ON THE SUBJECT

With learning outside the classroom becoming an increasingly discussed subject, it is useful to understand what established organisations and government bodies have to say on the matter.

“ When planned, and implemented well, learning outside the classroom contributes significantly to raising standards and improving pupils’ personal, social and emotional development. ”

Ofsted

“ Although the teacher holds the ultimate responsibility for what happens in any lesson, the experience of learning outside the classroom can help students develop a greater sense of their own responsibilities towards each other and the tasks on which they are working. ”

UNESCO

“ We believe that EVERY child should be given the opportunity to experience life and lessons beyond the classroom walls as a regular part of growing up. These experiences expand the horizons of young people, opening their eyes to the wonders of areas such as art, heritage, culture, adventure and the natural world. ”

CLOtC

“ Learning beyond the classroom offers a whole host of opportunities you’ll struggle to find within confines of your classroom’s four walls. ”

Creative Education

WHY DO IT

Creative Education list their 10 reasons to take learning outside the classroom:

- 🌿 Make learning more engaging
- 🌿 Make learning relevant
- 🌿 Nurture creativity and imagination
- 🌿 Develop learning through play and experimentation
- 🌿 Improve attendance
- 🌿 Reduce behaviour problems
- 🌿 Develop interest in the environment and wider surroundings
- 🌿 Expose children to new opportunities
- 🌿 Keep healthy
- 🌿 Enjoy almost limitless resources

🌐 www.creativeeducation.co.uk

WHY CHOOSE AN EXPEDITION FOR LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM?

An expedition is generally defined as an educational trip abroad with a specific element of challenge or adventure. An expedition is learning outside the classroom in a more challenging form, presenting the opportunity for maximum learning and growth within students.

CLOtC:

“Expeditions help to develop self-esteem, self-confidence and independence. They also provide opportunities for young people to experience other cultures, meet other people and develop new friendships and thus broaden their horizons and knowledge.”

REMOVING BARRIERS

The following factors may discourage schools from having learning outside the classroom as a fundamental part of their offering – we hope to demonstrate how to overcome them.

Health and safety

We believe in striking the right balance between protecting children and allowing them to develop and grow as people. Our **Risk vs Reward white paper** highlights how to achieve this.

Financial commitment

We are great advocates of fundraising; not only in terms of affording trip costs, but also in terms of bringing additional benefits and skills to the students involved. Our **Fundraising white paper** highlights how a dream trip can become a reality.

Workload

A helpful organisation will provide many of the documents needed to embark on such a trip and will take care of a large portion of the admin. There is no denying that there will be work involved but this must be weighed up against the potential benefits.

DOING IT THE RIGHT WAY

So, how do you ensure that you are delivering a learning outside the classroom experience that is relevant and appropriate? And how do you go about making it happen?

Consider:

- 🌿 The key objective of learning outside the classroom for your school.
- 🌿 What time and resources can be put to the activity or expedition.
 - 🌿 What funding you will have, and whether you could promote fundraising as a means of increasing accessibility.
- 🌿 How much of a challenge or adventure aspect you would like to include.
 - 🌿 Whether an external organisation will be able to support you in delivering the learning outside the classroom activity/expedition.
 - 🌿 What you would like your students to achieve.
 - 🌿 What you would like to achieve personally.
 - 🌿 What potential barriers you may come up against and how you may overcome these.

THE BENEFITS OF LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

There is clear evidence that learning outside the classroom is beneficial for young people. Amongst other things, it has been shown to:

- 🌿 develop understanding and knowledge through different teaching methods
 - 🌿 develop life skills
 - 🌿 increase aesthetic awareness
 - 🌿 change perceptions
- 🌿 support teaching areas which are difficult to cover in the classroom
 - 🌿 broaden horizons
 - 🌿 motivate and re-engage
- 🌿 develop ability to cope in challenging situations
 - 🌿 encourage a 'can-do' attitude
- 🌿 increase understanding of the world around us

*“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***



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Here at African Adventures, we believe that by working in partnership with local communities in Africa, we can find the best way to effect positive change.

