



OUTDOOR ENRICHMENT

SEATON SLUICE FIRST SCHOOL

“The great outdoors at the heart of learning”

A natural, nurturing way of learning...

- At Seaton Sluice First School, we believe that learning outdoors, appreciating nature, is essential for children's development. Outdoor, holistic learning is especially important when considering inclusive experiences and the enhancement of learning. Hands on nature-based opportunities bring learning to life through a multi-sensory, memorable approach.



Inclusive Learning

Outdoor education can be more inclusive as it offers various styles of learning opportunities that stretch beyond the traditional classroom setting. Children with different learning styles can benefit from sensory experiences, hands-on activities and additional physical engagement. Nature provides a level playing field where children can collaborate, explore and learn at their own pace.



Enhanced cognitive development



Nature-based learning enhances cognitive functions like attention, memory and problem-solving skills. Being in natural environments helps reduce stress and improves focus, allowing children to remember more. It also promotes creativity, critical thinking and curiosity as children engage in discovery driven first-hand learning.

Physical and emotional benefits

Outdoor learning is linked to better health, promoting movement, coordination and gross motor skills. Moreover, spending time in nature positively impacts mental well-being, fostering a sense of calm, reducing anxiety and building resilience. This emotional regulation supports a healthier learning environment and social interactions.



Social skills and collaboration



Outdoor settings encourage teamwork and communication. Children naturally work together when engaging in activities like den building, exploring or solving problems promoting social inclusion and cooperative behavior. These interactions are often more relaxed and less structured, maximising participation.

Connection to the environment

Learning in nature fosters a deeper connection to the environment, cultivating a sense of appreciation and responsibility towards the natural world. This awareness is crucial for developing environmentally conscious future citizens.



Multi-sensory learning



Nature provides a rich, multi-sensory experience, engaging sight, touch, smell and hearing. These sensory experiences are vital for children with different needs, enabling them to learn in ways that might be less accessible in a conventional classroom. Our school's sensory rich environment provides enjoyment whilst enhancing memory retention and conceptual understanding.

Our offer to the school community

At Seaton Sluice First School, we benefit from having a fantastic outdoor setting which boasts a range of learning-rich areas.

As well as being situated just a short walk from Seaton Sluice Harbour, Holywell Dene, Colywell Bay, Seaton Sluice Beach, St Mary's Lighthouse and Seaton Delaval Hall, we also have the following learning spaces on site for our lucky pupils to access:



'Share a Story'

Designed and custom-made by our talented Groundman, Mr Bayles, classes are able to come along to share a story or sing a song together in the tranquility and shade of the trees. We invite family members to be 'secret storytellers' who come along to share a story with us. They have pride of place sat on our beautiful storyteller throne!



'Time for Me' Mindfulness Space

Designed for one-to-one or small group time, this space provides a calm space to sit and experience peace and tranquility. Away from the busy feel of the school playground, this gem of an area provides a private space to reflect within a safe, natural setting.



'Grow and Learn' school allotment



This brilliant learning zone provides practical learning across a whole range of subjects ranging from science, PSHE, art and food technology. The area has been lovingly created and developed by Mrs Blakely, one of our brilliant parent governors. She also runs a weekly gardening club for children and families. All pupils are able to benefit from this fruitful learning space.

The Willow Tunnel



Why not wind your way through our **wonderful willow tunnel**? Designed and created by a local artist with some of our past pupils, children can enjoy a slow stroll, a bare foot bounce or a race from one end to the other.

The pupils can access the tunnel at their own pleasure, with their class or as part of a **Forest School session**.

Outdoor Forest Learning

Mrs Dale is our level 3 Forest School practitioner. She delivers exciting, hands-on sessions within early years with children in Nursery and Reception.

Staff from across the school enjoy taking their classes into this lovely rustic area which is also home to our charming dutch barn, perfect in providing extra shelter and warmth on colder days.



We even have a sea view!

Finally...how many children can say that they go to a school where they can see the sea from their classroom window?



How
lucky are
we?