Dolphin House Session Curricular Overview

**The Dolphin House; Engaging Learners and Educators**

Prior to your visit to The Dolphin House, you will have the opportunity to plan with our outdoor instructors, so that they can make the most of any Inter-Disciplinary Learning you are already carrying out, or will be carrying out in the classroom. This could mean developing bespoke sessions which incorporate educational foci, and initiatives such as Learning for Sustainability, 1+2 Modern Languages, Rights Respecting Schools Awards, the Eco-Schools Programme, Gender Equity, STEM Education and Developing the Young Workforce.

All of the activities which are carried out at The Dolphin House, whether they are an established part of our programme, or bespoke sessions we have designed with you, are carefully mapped against the Experiences and Outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence, including their relevant benchmark statements. So, you can be reassured that the outdoor learning experiences your pupils are enjoying, are not only making the most of place-based learning opportunities, but are also a key component of core curriculum coverage, and include plenty of scope for creativity and the imagination.

As the majority of the young people who visit The Dolphin House, are in the upper stages of the primary school, the curricular mapping has been carried out against the Second Level Experiences and Outcomes, however, we are experienced in providing learning opportunities for pupils with a wide variety of learning abilities, those who have Additional Support Needs, mobility difficulties, or who would benefit from a Dyslexia Friendly learning environment, and therefore, we actively encourage you to share your educational needs with us, so that we are better able to meet them.

We are extremely proud of our awareness of the need to cover aspects of the less talked about, however, just as important ‘hidden curriculum.’ The hidden curriculum covers experiences that every learner may not have experienced before, such as social eating, organising their own belongings, sharing their living space with others, caring for communal spaces and equipment, being mannerly etc. Our instructors are responsive to the cultural capital of individuals visiting, ensuring that their experience at The Dolphin House is a challenging, but nurturing experience.

During your stay at the Dolphin House, you will be introduced to the first three aspects of The John Muir Award; Discover a Wild Place, Explore It and Conserve It, before completing the award back at school by Sharing Your Experiences. The experiences gained at The Dolphin House also contribute to the Award of Ambition, which P7s complete. This award is the precursor to The Duke of Edinburgh’s Awards, and your pupils will be able to easily complete both the Environmental, and Personal Stretch sections of their booklets.

The activities which have been mapped to the curriculum, exist so that educators can gain a quick appreciation of the curricular areas that are covered in our programmes, as well as aspects which they may wish to assess during their visit. Our outdoor learning experiences are a fantastic opportunity to carry out meaningful holistic assessment, and a basic tracking sheet is provided for convenience. Use the documentation to save particular Experiences and Outcomes for your Dolphin House visit, or to help plan your visit with our outdoor instructors.

It is extremely important we make you aware that all of our adventurous activities are dependent upon dynamic risk assessments which are carried out by our experienced outdoor instructors. They will take into consideration, not only the weather and the physical ability of the group, but also elements such as verbal and non-verbal communication skills, as your safety is paramount to us. Where possible, we will always aim to adapt activities so that they are not completely ruled out, but we do have lots of exciting alternatives.

‘Let the mountains speak for themselves.’

Rustie Baillie