

SCIENCES — CFE · P1–P7

Foghlam Muigh-làraich — Outdoor Learning

Sciences in CfE — P1–P7

Outdoor science activities by CfE level

- EARLY (P1): identify named plants and animals in the school grounds — make a class book of 'what lives here'
- EARLY (P1): weather observation — rain gauge, weather symbols, daily record
- FIRST (P2-P4): food chains using creatures found in the school garden
- FIRST (P2-P4): seasonal change diary — photograph the same tree monthly
- FIRST (P2-P4): soil investigation — compare soil from different areas, test drainage
- SECOND (P5-P7): mini-habitat survey — compare biodiversity in different areas of the school grounds
- SECOND (P5-P7): water quality testing in a local burn or pond (with care)
- SECOND (P5-P7): orienteering and mapping — link to Social Studies
- SECOND (P5-P7): ecological survey of playing field vs garden vs hedge — which has most biodiversity?
- ALL LEVELS: nature journaling — observe closely, draw accurately, label

Outdoor learning — the policy

Why Scotland leads the U

■ CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE: the CfE explicitly includes outdoor learning as an entitlement. Schools are expected to use outdoor contexts regularly, not occasionally.

● LEARNING FOR SUSTAINABILITY: a CfE principle that includes outdoor learning, global citizenship, and sustainable development. Required in Scottish schools.



- FOREST KINDERGARTEN TRADITION: Scotland has embraced the Scandinavian forest kindergarten model more enthusiastically than any other UK nation.
- EVIDENCE: a 2019 EEF study found outdoor science learning in upper primary equivalent to 2+ months additional progress. Regular outdoor learning reduces behavioural incidents.
- RURAL SCOTLAND: Scotland's varied landscape (coast, moorland, woodland, loch) provides extraordinary outdoor learning contexts beyond what urban schools elsewhere can access.
- HMIE EXPECTATION: Education Scotland inspectors expect to see evidence of regular, purposeful outdoor learning. It is not optional.

