

Outdoor Learning Contract

Behaviour for learning is a key barrier to the uptake of outdoor education, with many teachers stating that challenging behaviour is the thing they are most concerned about when considering taking their class outdoors. A strategy to help manage behaviour outdoors is to create an outdoor learning contract with your class.



Get your pupils to think of some ideas for how they would like their learning to happen and what things they might want to consider when they are outside. You can help to guide the list of rules, but the important thing is that the contract is made as a group, so that the pupils agree to the rules and feel a sense of ownership over the contract, and therefore the way they behave. We've provided a template for a contract below, but you can create your own if you would prefer.

Our Outdoor Learning Contract

Class: _____

Teacher: _____

Our outdoor learning contract was made by us and helps us to have a fun and safe time while we're outside. Our class has signed this contract to show that we agree to the rules we have created.

Our Rules:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Signed by:

Here are some helpful tips to get the best from your contract:

- Think about a sound or signal you can use to get your classes attention when outdoors, and write listening to this signal in to your rules.
- Think about what strategy you might use if your pupils don't follow the outdoor learning contract. You may wish to include that in the contract somewhere.
- Try to pick a good range of topics, such as safety, kindness and respect for the outdoors and their classmates.
- Consider having a ritual for leaving and entering the classroom, to manage over excitement, for example, asking each pupil to sit in silence and reflect on the lesson after they return to class

