**Outdoor Learning and COVID-19**

Dear Colleague

Many of you will be preparing to open to a wider group of students and will be focussing on how to effectively manage young people during this time.

The government has stated: ‘*In year 6 it is unlikely that many of the end of term traditions will be able to take place, for example, whole year or class assemblies with parents,* ***school******journeys and trips****.*’[[1]](#endnote-1)

We should therefore look to use a combination of our school grounds and, when permitted to, the ‘Local Learning Area’ (see below).

The DFE also suggests:

* *‘Use outdoor space(…) for outdoor education, where possible, as this can limit transmission and more easily allow for distance between children and staff’[[2]](#endnote-2)*
* *‘consider which lessons or classroom activities could take place outdoors’*

Many of you will have already designated a Local Learning Area, however the associated guidance will need to be updated to include how you intend on managing the risks associated with COVID. I have therefore updated the suggested template for this (see EVOLVE Resources).

In terms of ideas, there are many organisations who have provided a vast range of resources and lesson plans for delivering outside the classroom, - the principal ones are listed below:

**Learning Through Landscapes** [Outdoor Lesson Ideas](https://www.ltl.org.uk/free-resources/) [School Grounds](https://www.ltl.org.uk/school-grounds/)

**Council for Learning Outside the Classroom** [Resources](https://www.lotc.org.uk/)

**The Wild Network** [thewildnetwork.com](https://www.thewildnetwork.com/)

**The Field Studies Council** [Resources and Ideas](https://www.field-studies-council.org/resources-and-ideas/)

I hope the above is useful.

Kind regards

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1. **Planning guide for primary schools – DfE – Accessed 26th May 2020 (**<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>) [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. **Coronavirus (COVID-19): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings – DfE -Accessed 26th May 2020** (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>) [↑](#endnote-ref-2)