

The Tree

Part 4: An Experiential Curriculum

Layers of learning at Wallscourt Farm Academy

September 2015



An experiential curriculum

It's important to note that the 'curriculum' at Wallscourt Farm Academy refers to a set of experiences that nourish and develop the whole child, not simply academic needs. We have moved away from using the term 'curriculum' as it implies a set level on content mapped out across the school defined by artificial boundaries such as key stages and year groups and chose to use the term learning opportunities.

The National Curriculum 2014, Reggio Emilia principles and Enquiry-led Learning approaches, are all underpinned by a series of opportunities or curriculum vehicles, that the children will help contextualise newly acquired knowledge. Some experience will be purposefully mapped to National Curriculum content, whilst others are our pledge to develop the whole child. This is in part to ensure that all children, regardless of background or situation, are provided the same opportunities to acquire life-rich experiences and aspirations.

The learning community at Wallscourt has come up with 50 opportunities believed to support the community; it's family and teachers. The list has drawn heavily on two local models: 80 by 18¹ and The Bristol 50². In order to generate the list, and celebrate the regions rich heritage, the categories to the right were used as stimuli. Each category is further broken down into four progressive stages that match the four phases of the school: Establish, Develop, Enhance, Extend.

These are then cross-referenced with the seven learning lens, which creates the 50 experiences; some experiences have been populated as examples on the following page. It is not an exhaustive or fully populated list; it is simply for illustration.

Who am I?

Birth, Growth, Identity, Belief

Take a Risk

Play, Explore, Produce, Enterprise

Local to Global

Community, Regional, National, International

Giving Back

Empathy, Charity, Impact, Altruism

Digital Native

Use, Create, Manipulate, Collaborate

Back to the Past

Living, Modern, Middle, Ancient

Who could I be?

Achievements, Jobs, Careers, Aspirations

Naturally Aware

Trees, Woodland, Forest, Wilderness

'-ology' (STEM)

Event, Cause, Effect, Change



Into the Future

Me, Us, Population, Everyone

¹ <http://www.bristol80by18.org.uk>

² <http://www.bristolmuseums.org.uk/learning>

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Category							
Who am I? Birth, Growth, Identity, Belief Progression: Establish, Develop, Enhance, Extend	Create a family tree through food liked by different members of family	Visit and photograph all different places family was born (if possible)	Busk or perform in different community and public spaces	Spend significant amounts of time with older family members listening to stories	Make or do something to sell door to door; give profits to a charity.	Create a woodwork piece as part of outdoor exhibition or installation	Contribute to a 'My Family are Different Because...' book.
Take a Risk Play, Explore, Produce, Enterprise	Swim in different places: swimming pool, lake, river, and water slide park	Sit back and watch: tide going out, starry sky, cloud spotting	Visit local area with an Assistance Dog and owner; share the challenges with others	Find photos and talk to shop owners of St. Nicholas' Market in St. Nicholas Market.	Count how many sustainable organizations from Open Top Bristol Bus	Calculate the carbon footprint of Bristol Airport.	Assist in Soup Kitchen, Shelter, Food Bank and create a conference to raise awareness.
Local to Global Community, Regional, National, International	Visit Slimbridge, talk to wardens; get a sense of how important specific habitats are	Create gorilla media campaign and try to make it go 'viral'	Christmas Steps, a Castle, Castle Park	Go to AirBus and Bloodhound: watch aerospace in action	Collaborate online on a shared Social Action Project with school in another country		
Giving Back Empathy, Charity, Impact, Altruism	Visit older people in the community: talk, garden, shop, play games, sing songs	Clifton Funicular Railway Open Days, Temple Meads, Park Way	Visit the same woodland or arboretum each season	View (and create?) a 4D film.			
Digital Native Use, Create, Manipulate, Collaborate	Visit Radio Bradley Stoke, meet radio presenters; create own station	All seven museum sites in Bristol	Visit 3 universities, interview –ologists... ask: How do you	Go to AirBus and Bloodhound: watch aerospace in action			
Back to the Past Living, Modern, Middle, Ancient	Make a 'where could I work when I'm older' film.	Splash in as many muddy puddles as you can find.	Walk around Wallscourt to MOD, observe the changes in place.	View (and create?) a 4D film.			
Who could I be? Achievements, Jobs, Careers, Aspirations	Visit a wax work museum: who is influential?	Visit 5 factories to see how things are made and who makes them!					
Naturally Aware Trees, Woodland, Forest, Wilderness	Visit Brunel sites (ss. GB, Suspension Bridge) to understand historical						
'-ology' (STEM) Event, Cause, Effect, Change							
Into the Future Me, Us, Population, Everyone							