

H2.4

Structured and Planned Non Formal Learning

Aims are to:

raise educational achievement

promote inclusive approach

improve employability, self-confidence, and motivation

provide a range of learning opportunities in an informal, non-competitive setting

encourage citizenship

offer opportunities to try new ways of learning

promote excitement and fun of learning

Open to All

Young people take part in non-formal learning activities voluntarily. Non formal learning activities outside school hours should be offered to all young people because it benefits all young people who take part in them.

These may include pupils from socially or economically disadvantaged backgrounds, those who experience discrimination in the society (e.g. gender, disability and race), pupils who are at risk of becoming disaffected and who have negative attitudes to learning.

It seeks to benefit children who:

- have limited opportunities outside school
- are at risk of underachieving or not working to their full potential
- are from disadvantaged backgrounds
- experience difficulty learning through traditional teaching methods
- receive limited learning support from parents/carers
- have limited knowledge of the language

Distinctive Features

- is open to all and targets those who need it most
- happens outside school hours including weekends and holidays
- is different from formal learning
- adaptable to pupil needs
- is designed to be fun and enjoyable
- helps develop new skills
- offers access to a variety of activities

Main Areas

- enabling: help with developing basic and key skills
- enriching: opportunities to learn new things
- extending: building on class based learning
- How it helps raise achievement
- new experiences and exploration of interests
- identifying talents and skills
- access to more resources

- discovering new ways to learn
- improving health and fitness
- learning at ones' own pace
- improving social skills and interaction
- raising self-esteem and confidence

How non formal learning programme differs from traditional Extra-Curricular activities

The most significant difference is the purpose:

it aims to raise achievement, including academic attainment, by improving young people's motivation and self-confidence and by building their self esteem

Traditional extra-curricular projects tend to focus on improving academic attainment and the beneficiaries tend to be young people who are already motivated.