



Learning in England Extra-curricular programme

17 > What is the 'extra-curricular or co-curricular programme'?

Extra-curricular activities are run by teachers and older pupils outside the classroom, 'off-timetable', which are intended to help children develop skills and character. Pupils can choose which activities to follow in the extra-curricular programme. They will usually be run at lunch times, after school and sometimes at weekends. They have the opportunity to mix with pupils across the whole school community. It is very good to see whole school productions of musicals and plays with participants from every year group!

By the time they leave the school, pupils will have had opportunities to learn how to be

- > good independent learners
- > able to lead other people
- > able to solve problems
- > able to learn from failure
- > able to work effectively with others, in teams
- > able to communicate clearly in writing and speech
- > able to control their emotions
- > able to manage their time.

Schools will run activities where these skills can be developed. Perhaps your child may choose to

- > sing, dance, play in an Orchestra or Band, put on a Play
- > play a game, like Chess or Bridge
- > create something artistic, even trying a discipline they have not tried before, such as ceramics
- > play football, cricket, hockey, rugby, tennis or athletics, or many other less common sports, such as rowing, sailing or golf

 Q 

How do I find out about the extra-curricular programme, before joining the school?

 A 

The websites for each school are full of useful information.

We will also provide detailed information about what extra-curricular opportunities will suit your child in light of the Assessment.



- > debate, for example in competitions, or with the Model United Nations
- > do a community service, like visiting an elderly person or helping in a primary or special school
- > raise money for charity
- > do the Duke of Edinburgh's Award
- > join the CCF or Combined Cadet Force
- > trips to support the academic curriculum, but not required by the examination Specification, for example, to Museums, Galleries or Plays
- > join a reading group or creative writing club
- > join a subject club or homework club to secure or extend learning in, for example, History

*My "love of performing arts came from some of the brilliant teachers I had when I was younger and the opportunities, we were given to perform them. My secondary drama teacher had a fantastic way of involving students who might otherwise have not considered themselves to be 'artsy.' I'll be forever grateful to him for the difference that being in Jesus Christ Superstar or Cabaret made for me. It is a very personal example of what good extra-curricular opportunities do: they reach different children in ways that other aspects of school life might not and help to complete a child's educational experiences at school."*¹

*"At my school, we often had a Booklet showing what Clubs were available. Then in the first week of term pupils would sign up at the Clubs Fair for a minimum of three a week. They would participate at lunchtimes or after lessons. Most Clubs were run by teachers, but they were often supported by Sixth Form students. I enjoyed supporting the MUN Club and taking students to MUN Conferences at different schools."*²

All these things inspire a sense of adventure, challenge or service, and enrich relationships. Often these are the things that children talk about with such affection, when they leave school and look back on, from their school days. We hope that by finding the best school for your child that he or she will indeed look back on their school days as the happiest days of their life – so far!

Contact us at Paths to Learning by emailing felicitygunn@hotmail.com

¹ Mark Lehair, Telegraph 4.12.2017

² Felicity, Oxfordshire teacher.

As at February 2022