



3rd February 2023

Enrichment

What is enrichment?

When you look back at your schooldays, what do you remember most fondly? Mastering times tables or tricky spellings – or school trips and after-school clubs?

Activities like this are known as enrichment, and are an important part of your child's education, giving them new experiences, extending their learning, and making school life more fun.

All children benefit from enrichment. It allows them to deepen and apply their learning. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds also benefit from experiences and activities that they may not get out of school.

Why does enrichment matter?

It helps provide children with a rounded, culturally rich education through activities that enhance their learning. Enrichment gives children opportunities to try new and varied activities that enhance curriculum.

It helps to teach life skills that benefit children beyond the classroom, and can develop an appreciation for cultural and community issues, teamwork and social responsibility.

Enrichment:

- Helps children develop their interests and talents
- Enables children to develop their character, including resilience, confidence and independence
- Teaches children how to keep physically and mentally healthy
- Prepares them for future success
- Equips children to be responsible, respectful and active citizens

Enrichment opportunities at Commonswood include:

- Lunchtime and after-school clubs
- Music lessons (usually paid for by parents) and opportunities to use musical talents, for example in choirs and bands – both practising and performing
- School trips and residential visits
- Forest school and other outdoor learning opportunities
- Whole-school events e.g. Book Week, Harvest Festival, current celebrations such the King's Coronation
- Supporting charities through activities like food bank collections
- Scooterability and road safety
- Visiting speakers, for example authors, local figures or parents who have skills or expertise to share (e.g. a firefighter or vet)
- Local or national challenges like maths competitions
- Being active in the local community, such as through litter picks and carol singing for members of the community

Funding Enrichment

Enrichment activities are a non-statutory, non-funded part of children's education. Where possible, we look for low-cost activities. The vast majority of costs are in the price of travel. This is why we try to get as many visitors into school rather than taking children out. We feel, however, that children benefit greatly from venturing out beyond the school grounds. We ask for parent contributions. Without these, trips would not be financially feasible.

Enrichment at Home

You probably already do a lot of enrichment at home without really realising.

Reading together, roleplay games, board games, singing, dancing, cooking, gardening, painting and drawing all count.

Family visits to art galleries, zoos and museums will add depth to your child's knowledge. There are also structured activities that your child can take part in, such as music or swimming lessons, Brownies or Cubs, or being part of a sports team.

Look out for learning activities and competitions that your child can get involved with. The Summer Reading Challenge runs annually in libraries to encourage kids to read for pleasure, and there are lots of other opportunities to learn while having fun, such as applying for a Blue Peter badge.

Parent questions:

Is there the possibility of children doing the trips that they missed out on because of the Covid lockdowns? No – The trips are linked to current learning.

Will children be going on trips to the museums and galleries again or will they remain remote visits? Yes – The aim is for all children to visit galleries and museums throughout their time at Commonswood. We are currently doing some remote visits to keep costs down.

Do all of the trips and events remain the same each year? No- We are always exploring new and exciting opportunities.

Is the coach cost the most expensive part of the trip? Yes – It is also makes estimating costs difficult because the cost can change a lot from one day to the next.