



THE **OUTDOOR** **CLASSROOM**

IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

INGLEWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

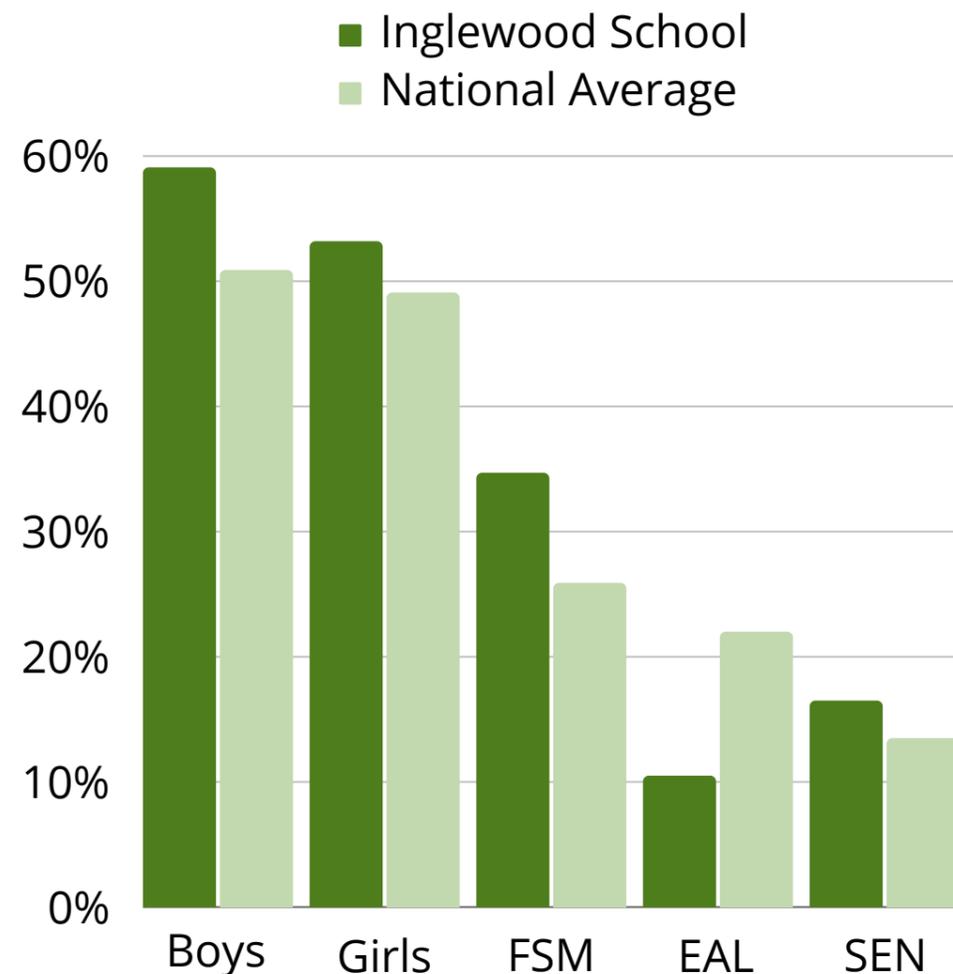
ACADEMIC YEAR 22/23

ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Inglewood Junior School, located in Carlisle, is a primary school that prides itself on providing a well-rounded education. The school is committed to innovative learning, offering technology-aided lessons and a dedicated focus on physical activity for its pupils. The expansive school grounds features a running circuit, which is used daily to encourage exercise as part of their healthy lifestyles initiative.

The school joined The Outdoor Classroom with the aim of advancing their health initiative, seeking an innovative way to seamlessly blend both technology and physical activity.

By incorporating active Outdoor Learning into their curriculum using The Outdoor Classroom, the school significantly enhanced their physical activity programmes. The system's ability to facilitate traditionally classroom-based subjects outdoors provided additional opportunities for physical activity, all without compromising the school's commitment to delivering a robust curriculum.



“We wanted a way to enhance what we offer to the children by integrating the technology we have in school with physical activity, two areas that we pride ourselves on being a strength of our school. We were keen to promote outdoor learning, outside of the classroom and foster critical skills such as problem-solving and teamwork, while utilising the iPads to engage our children in an interactive way.”

Despite the school's modest population of only 248 students, those receiving SEN support surpass the national average by 3%. Additionally, 10.5% of the student body consists of EAL learners, and 34.7% are eligible for free school meals, reflecting a diverse range of abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Recognising the need for inclusive and accessible challenges, the school was drawn to The Outdoor Classroom's multimedia options. The range of question and answer styles is ideal for mixed ability classes, making education more accessible to all pupils. By incorporating a mix of visual and auditory questions, the school is able to cater not only to students with English as a second language but also to those with visual impairments.

LESSONS AND CHALLENGES

Inglewood School started their Outdoor Learning journey using The Outdoor Classroom primarily to activate English lessons, as well as Maths and Modern Foreign Languages to bolster vocabulary development with a more accessible approach.

In the initial phase, Inglewood Junior School taught active English lessons, aiming to enhance pupils' vocabulary and provide a comprehensive exploration of adjectives whilst being physically active.

Teachers actively motivated students through visual prompts and posed challenges that encouraged verbal responses.

This serves as an excellent example of leveraging the system to create immersive and inclusive learning opportunities for pupils.

In this context, pupils were given complete creative autonomy to express their thoughts verbally, eliminating barriers such as spelling challenges.

This approach not only facilitates confidence-building when learning about vocabulary but also boosts and sustains engagement, which in turn supports pupils' continuation through more difficult challenges further into the subject.

Imagine the two characters are meeting for the first time. Both characters can talk. What would they say?



▶ 0:00 / 0:08 — 🔊 ⋮

Describe what you see using an adjective (describing word) followed by a noun (the thing) Be ambitious with your word choices!



▶ 0:00 / 0:08 — 🔊 ⋮

Similar teaching techniques were used for Modern Foreign Languages, where tasks were set asking pupils to record conversations in Spanish relating to any prompted topic. In addition to confidence and vocabulary expansion, this method further developed pupils' collaborative working skills in peer-led call and response.

DEVELOPING PE LESSONS

In addition to incorporating Outdoor Learning into traditionally classroom-based subjects, Inglewood Junior School directed attention towards enhancing their PE lessons and sports clubs throughout the whole school.

The school devised a range of sports-related challenges, accommodating participation from multiple year groups. The Outdoor Classroom efficiently tracked the progress of each class, allowing them to engage in the challenge at their own convenience.

To further aid technique development in PE lessons, the school employed peer modelling. Instructional videos featuring fellow pupils demonstrating the correct techniques for each exercise were provided at each step, offering valuable support to enhance skill building.

Teachers observed a significant rise in engagement during lessons facilitated by The Outdoor Classroom, especially among pupils who typically face challenges or exhibit low confidence in PE. Teachers credited this success to the system's user-friendly interface, noting that its gamified delivery of difficult topics appeals to pupils' excitement of competition and reward.



Swap person recording. Now, 20 seconds of mountain climbers.



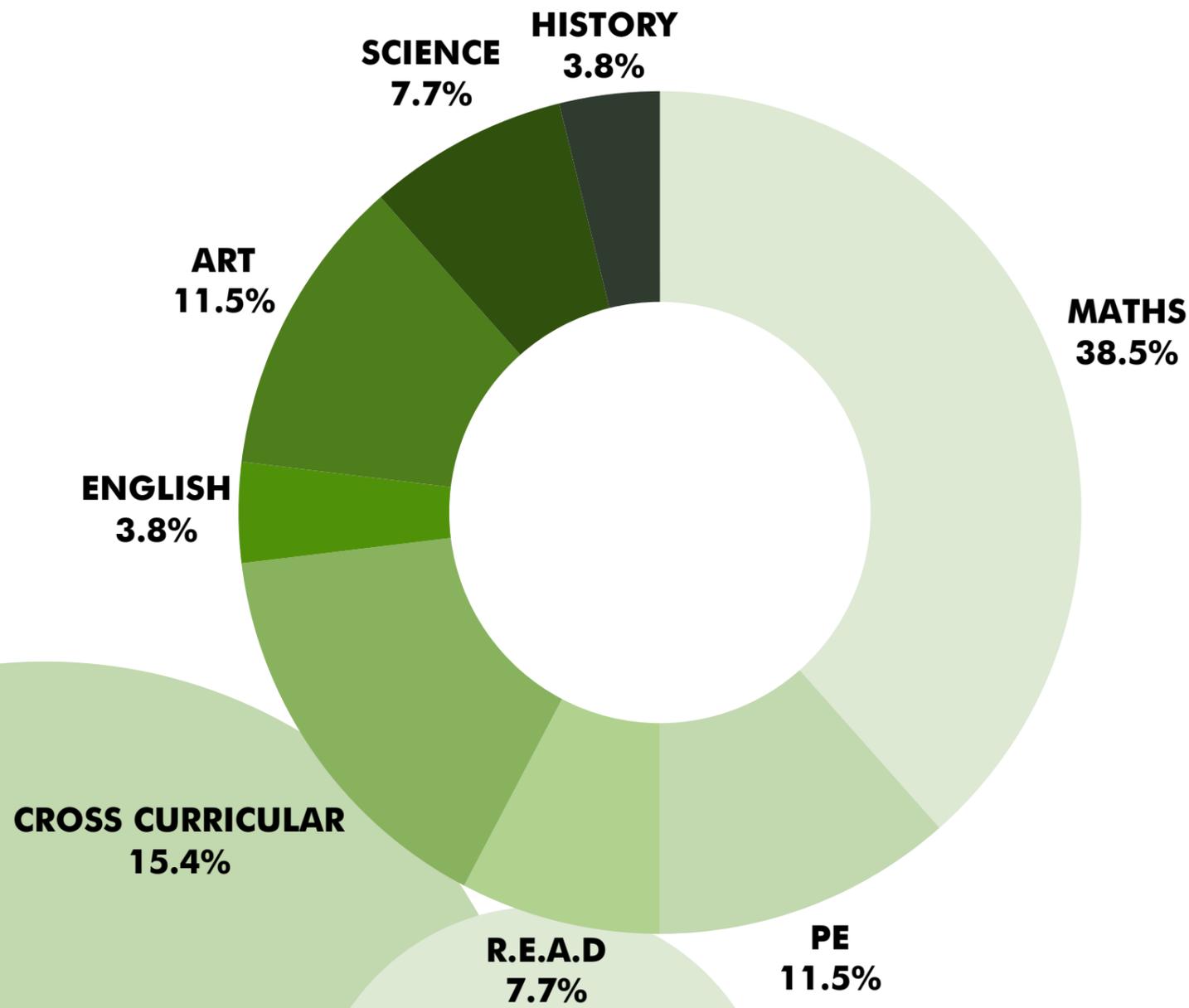
“The children enjoy being active, thinking logically, working as a team and having a sense of freedom that it can be hard to give them in the classroom environment.”

Mrs M. Kingston

The dedicated emphasis on pupils' fitness and heightened physical activity not only contributed to their overall well-being but also proved advantageous for the school during their participation in The Big League, where they secured second place nationally.

WHOLE SCHOOL IMPACT

The school used The Outdoor Classroom to deliver a broad range of subjects, most notably taking more difficult academic subjects such as Maths and Science outdoors and using the natural environment to bolster learning.



Inglewood Junior School's most taught subject was Maths, closely followed by topical activities such as courses for the King's Coronation and Hook Day.

As a universal core subject, the importance of learning Maths from a young age is crucial. However, mastering Maths is also vital for nurturing essential life skills such as logical reasoning, critical thinking, and problem-solving. These mathematical skills acquired early on empower pupils to navigate real-world challenges, make informed decisions, and approach various situations with a systematic and analytical mindset, contributing to their overall competency in the real world.

“The system enables pupils to practise a range of skills out of a classroom setting. Often, the children don't even realise they are learning! Its had a really positive impact on their education.”

Maths can often be referred to as boring, difficult or otherwise alienating subject, but with The Outdoor Classroom technology, the school tackled this misconception head-on by delivering their Maths lessons from an entirely new perspective.

SCHOOL PROGRESS

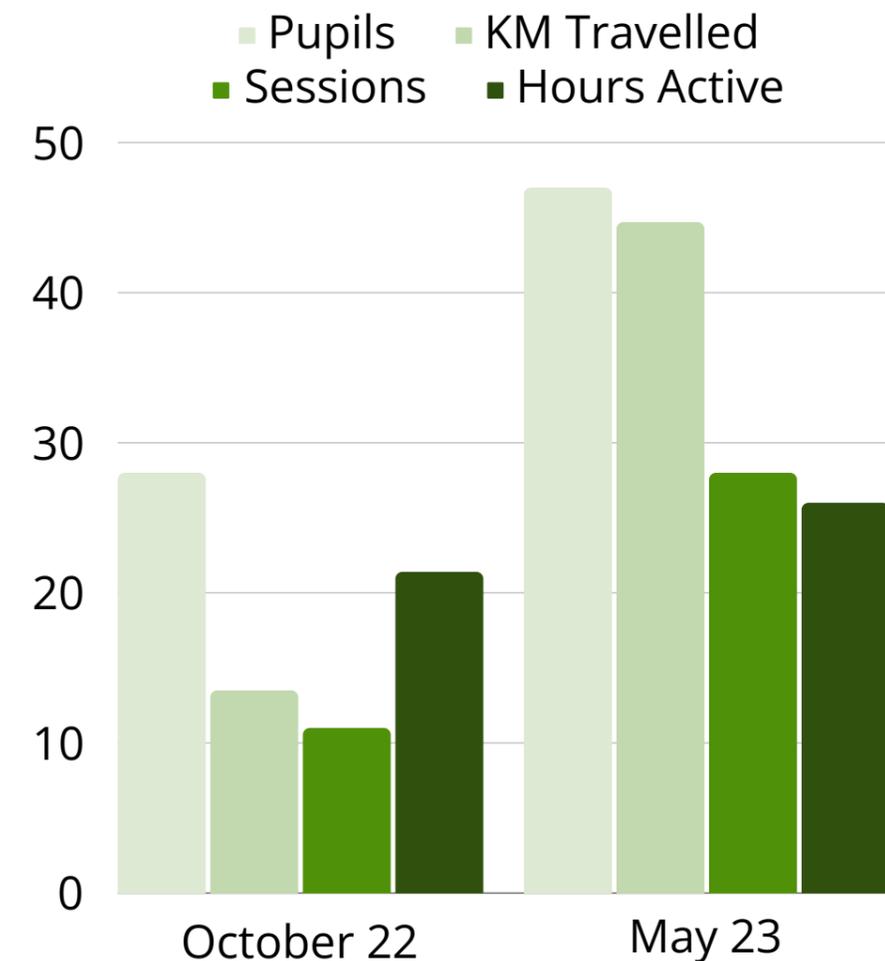
From starting their Outdoor Learning journey with The Outdoor Classroom, pupils' level of physical activity almost doubled by the end of the academic year.

In September 2022, Inglewood Junior School joined The Outdoor Classroom, swiftly achieving results by incorporating the system, primarily in English lessons. As of spring 2023, an extensive range of courses for delivering outdoor Maths lessons was developed, followed by the incorporation of a huge range of other subjects. By the end of the academic year, the school seamlessly integrated The Outdoor Classroom into daily lessons across all core subjects and initiated numerous intra-school fitness challenges and courses for clubs.

Being an active participant in The Big League, our national competition promoting active learning, Inglewood Junior School excelled with consistently high scores throughout the competition. The inclusive scoring system, based on percentages, ensured fair assessment, avoiding penalisation for smaller schools, like Inglewood, due to fewer pupils. The auto-logged data in The Outdoor Classroom system played a pivotal role in calculating scores, attributing points to the school's participation each time a pupil engaged with the app during lessons. The school's commitment to Outdoor Learning earned them a well-deserved second place in the competition.

“The children love using the app and it allows for learning to be creative as well as encouraging movement, logical thinking and communication skills. It's a real asset in school.”

By the end of the academic year, the school had achieved an incredible feat, increasing their active pupils by 67.85%. Active pupils in the school travelled 238.46% more in May 2023, compared to October 2022, and teachers were creating 154% more courses for Outdoor Learning.



SPOTLIGHT SUCCESS

In December 2023 Inglewood Junior School was awarded international recognition as an Apple Distinguished School (ADS) for their innovative use of technology in an educational setting.

Already making headway in their mission to help pupils develop strong technological skills in preparation for real-world operations, the school's addition of The Outdoor Classroom into the curriculum massively contributed towards their ADS achievement.

The school has a selection of iPads available to pupils for educational exercises enriching their learning experiences by including digital technology.

This technology fosters cross-curricular learning, promotes independence, encourages collaboration, and contributes to overall student well-being.

Utilising The Outdoor Classroom on these devices, teachers can engage students in Outdoor Learning experiences by creating interactive points throughout the school grounds with our scannable plaques.

Students can scan each checkpoint, respond to questions posed by the technology, and then proceed to the next designated point, enhancing their interactive and exploratory learning.

Using technology in an alternative setting, whilst simultaneously being physically active, is teaching their pupils to appreciate technology as a tool to succeed in a positive and healthy way.



Photograph Credit: The Cumberland News

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