

# Play & Learn Outdoors

from the canopy experts

**able**  
canopies  
a PALRAM company

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# WELCOME TO THE SUMMER EDITION OF PLAY & LEARN OUTDOORS

Hello and welcome to the June edition of P&LO. We were blessed with wonderful May weather and June looks to be just as good going forward, so it's a great time to grab a cold drink and read your favorite newsletter.

This month's edition is packed with everything you love including funding advice, fundraising ideas and lots of inspiration for your outdoor play and learning area.

We've mixed things up a little with this edition to make it easier for you to find your articles of interest. We have therefore kept all the funding and fundraising articles together, all playground inspiration and latest news articles together and all outdoor play and learning ideas together.

If you enjoy reading P&LO, why not pass a copy to your colleagues to also enjoy? If they would like to

receive their own copies, email us at: [marketing@ablecanopies.co.uk](mailto:marketing@ablecanopies.co.uk) and we'll add them to the list.

Enjoy the glorious spring, and we'll be back in the summer for more ideas and inspiration.

Best Wishes

**Tracy Meakins**

Managing Director



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## Become Part of the P&LO Facebook Group



It's so helpful to be part of a community of like-minded people who talk about something that interests you and supports your profession. However, being a teacher doesn't leave you with much time to go to regular meets outside of your career and personal life. That's why we have created a Facebook group where

you can meet like-minded teachers and education specialists online to discuss any ideas and tips you have for outdoor play and learning ideas, all from the comfort of your home or staff room.

The idea of this online group is so you can gather and share ideas, discuss what has worked for you enabling you to hold outdoor sessions that work out perfectly for both you and your pupils.

We'll also be sharing weekly posts with lots of outdoor play and

learning ideas.

**How can you join the group?** If you have a Facebook profile, it's really simple, search **Outdoor Play & Learning Ideas for Schools UK** in Facebook, click the join button, answer the questions, hit submit, and you're in!

Alternatively, scan the QR code here:





# A NEW CHAPTER: EXPANDING HORIZONS WITH ABLE CANOPIES AND PALRAM

Earlier this year, Able Canopies proudly celebrated 20 years of delivering trusted canopy solutions across the UK. Today, we're excited to share the next step in our journey: Able Canopies has officially joined the Palram Group — a global leader in thermoplastic solutions and large-scale outdoor structures.

For our valued clients and partners, day-to-day operations remain unchanged. You'll continue to work with the same dedicated team, receive the same high-quality service, and benefit from the same personalised approach that has been at the heart of Able Canopies for two decades.

But while some things stay the same, others are about to get much bigger!

By joining forces with Palram, we now have access to an expanded portfolio of innovative products and materials — including advanced polycarbonate glazing systems designed to cover larger, more complex structures. This partnership strengthens our manufacturing capabilities and

opens exciting new opportunities to deliver canopy and roofing solutions that cover much larger projects than we were previously able to.

With this new backing, we're now able to offer a broader, more versatile product portfolio that goes beyond our traditional markets. Whether it's a bespoke school canopy or an expansive indoor swimming pool roof system, we have the technology and capability to deliver.

Stay with us as we step confidently into this new chapter, bringing even more value to your projects and opening fresh possibilities in commercial architecture and outdoor design.

## Setting the Vision: Growing from Trusted Education Supplier to Major Commercial Player

Able Canopies has earned its reputation by delivering high-quality, reliable structures to schools and commercial sectors across the UK. As we move forward, the vision is clear:

to take that same trusted name and grow it into new sectors where our expanded capabilities can meet bigger, bolder challenges. We're starting from a solid foundation!

Our expanded product range offers:

- **Solutions that scale** — from compact designs to extra-large architectural landmarks.
- **UV protection and fire resistance** - that meet the demands of public, high-traffic spaces.
- **Customisable colours and forms** - to give you full creative freedom.
- **Proven durability with a 15-year warranty** - and materials that stand the test of time.

This is a growth journey — our new range of polycarbonate glazing systems, including the Sunglaze® solid system and the Sunpal® multi-wall system, have been proven on projects around the world and is now available through Able Canopies.





# CREATING AN INSPIRING OUTDOOR LEARNING AREA UNDER YOUR CANOPY

A canopy provides a dry, shaded space that can be used for a multitude of purposes, from a relaxing spot to enjoy your packed lunch, to a sheltered outdoor learning area where children can be taught in a more informal setting without concerns over the weather.

For early years and primary school settings, creating an environment that is both colourful and stimulating is essential to foster a love of learning. Below are our top tips for designing an inspiring outdoor learning area under your school canopy:

## **Bring the Classroom Outside**

With the cover provided by a canopy, you can relocate classroom furniture outdoors for the day. This not only gives children a fresh environment in which to learn but also revitalises their daily routine with a breath of fresh air.

## **Incorporate Fun Seating**

Enhance your space by adding picnic tables and benches to encourage outdoor breaks. Creative seating options such as flower or animal shaped seats can also transform the area into an imaginative storytelling corner.



## **Embrace Natural Elements**

Utilise free resources from nature, such as twigs, leaves, and pine cones in art lessons or as a catalyst for imaginative play. These natural materials can spark creativity and offer endless possibilities.

## **Add a Splash of Colour**

Ensure your outdoor space remains vibrant all year by incorporating bunting or banners into your canopy design. Our Rainbow Package includes a colourful bunting banner available in various shades, posts customisable to any RAL colour, and a set of vibrant post pads to

complement your design perfectly. The Rainbow Package can be ordered with your canopy installation or retrofitted later, providing flexibility to enhance your outdoor area as desired.

Discover more about our canopy solutions and the Rainbow Package by downloading our brochure today:

**[www.ablecanopies.co.uk](http://www.ablecanopies.co.uk)**

Contact us today if your outside area is in need of shade and shelter to help you create an inspiring outdoor learning area within your school grounds.



# Thomas Walling Primary School Coniston Canopy Extension

Taking lessons outdoors offers countless benefits, from boosting engagement and active learning to enhancing overall well-being. Yet, unpredictable weather often poses a challenge. The solution? A school canopy that allows you to conduct classes outside, regardless of the conditions, while also simplifying your lesson planning.

We understand that budget constraints and planning permissions can be hurdles. While we can't provide the funds, or secure planning permission for you, we can supply a smaller canopy that fits your current budget and planning requirements. Best of all, our Coniston Canopy is fully

extendable, meaning you can expand your outdoor space when your circumstances improve.

Consider the example of Thomas Walling Primary Academy. This innovative school, located in Tyne & Wear and catering to children aged 2 to 11, wanted to enhance their early years/ nursery yard by creating a large, weather-resistant outdoor area. Our solution was the Coniston Freestanding Canopy, renowned for its adaptability and seamless integration between indoor and outdoor spaces.

For Phase 1, the school selected a Signal Blue (RAL 5005) Coniston Freestanding Canopy, measuring 22.8 metres in length

with a 5.5 metre projection. The installation was completed in August 2023, with John Plant, the Premises Manager, commending our team as *"Excellent, well experienced, and brilliant lads. Very helpful all the way to the end of the job."*

By March 2025, Phase 2 was implemented with an additional 33m x 5.5m canopy, extending the total length to 55.8 metres and covering 302.5 square metres of outdoor space. This expansion has provided a versatile, sheltered environment where students at Thomas Walling Primary School can enjoy outdoor learning throughout the year.





# THE STAGES OF A CANOPY INSTALLATION

At Able Canopies, we take pride in delivering bespoke shelter solutions that enhance outdoor spaces and support educational settings throughout the year. One of our standout recent projects is the installation of a large, custom-designed Coniston Freestanding Canopy at St Benedict's Catholic College in Colchester, Essex, for whom we have installed a number of canopies. It's the perfect showcase of how we work closely with clients to turn their vision into reality.

## A Vision for All-Weather Outdoor Learning

St Benedict's Catholic College came to us with a clear brief: they needed a spacious, durable canopy to create an all-weather area that could be used for outdoor learning, break times, and social activities, even during term time. With a budget in place and a requirement for a large-span structure, the school was open to either a wall mounted or freestanding canopy solution.

### Site Survey & Bespoke Design

In December 2024, our team conducted a full site survey at St Benedict's Catholic College. This allowed us to assess the space, understand the school's requirements, and propose a solution that was both cost-effective and functional.

Our tailored recommendation was the installation of two Coniston Freestanding Canopies, positioned back-to-back. The design was an expansive 16.5m x 9m canopy, totaling an impressive 148.5 square metres. To enhance accessibility from the school building, we also included a 5m x 3m Coniston Wall Mounted Canopy, providing a seamless link between the indoor and outdoor environments.

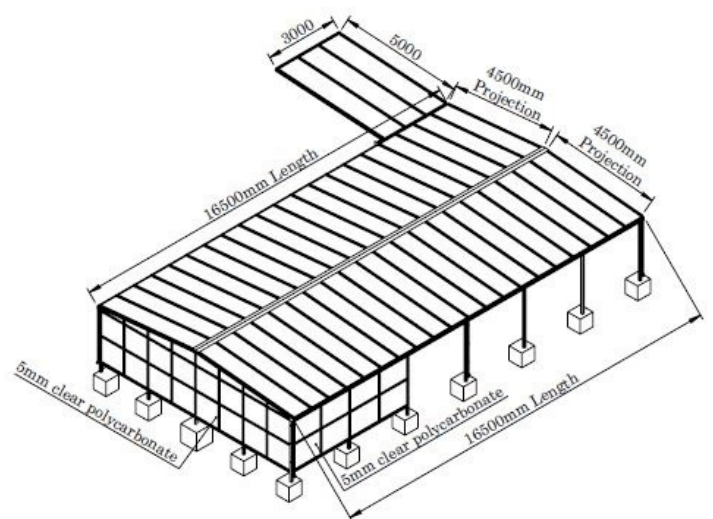


### Enhancing Comfort & Safety

To ensure year-round usability and added protection, we incorporated 12 side fills into the design. These provide extra shielding, which is particularly beneficial during windy conditions. We also partnered with Lonsdale Landscapes Ltd to install 270 square metres of artificial grass, creating a soft, low-maintenance surface that's both practical and visually appealing.

### Installation Timeline

The transformation was completed over a four-week period, broken into two distinct phases:



*Above: The final design*



### Phase One: Canopy Installation (12th–19th March 2025)

Lonsdale Landscapes carried out initial groundwork preparation between 3-11 March, readying the area for both the canopy installation and artificial grass.

Our team began installing the canopy on 12th March, completing the main structure within a few days – beginning with the frame, followed by the polycarbonate roof panels, and concluding with the side and back fills for added weather protection.



### Phase 2: Final Groundworks (20th–28th March 2025)

Lonsdale Landscapes then returned to the site on 20th March to complete the landscaping ahead of our return on 26 & 27th March to finish the side infills.

Thanks to our strict health and safety protocols, we were able to carry out the works safely during term time, at a schedule that worked for the school. This meant the canopy could be installed sooner than anticipated without needing to wait for a school holiday period.



We were thrilled to receive such positive feedback from St Benedict's Catholic College, here's what they had to say:

***"Super easy to work with Able Canopies. Install team were spot on. End result – Fab. Highly recommend."***



# OUR TOP TIPS FOR APPLYING FOR GRANTS

At times, the funds generated through fundraising may not fully cover the costs of your planned projects, like a new school canopy, sports equipment, or a playground renovation. Although grant applications can be time-consuming and require considerable effort, securing a substantial grant often enables you to implement necessary changes more swiftly than traditional fundraising methods.

Numerous charities and organisations offer grants specifically for nurseries, schools, and voluntary services. These grants vary from modest sums to significant amounts depending on your project needs and the specific grant available.

Visit:

**[www.ablecanopies.co.uk/funding/](http://www.ablecanopies.co.uk/funding/)** to view funding opportunities for schools, nurseries, SEN schools & community projects.

## Top Tips for a Successful Grant Application

**Preparation:** Allow time for your application. Funders typically need several months to process applications due to fixed closing dates and high

volumes of submissions. It is essential to make your application stand out from the rest.

**Choosing a Grant:** Instead of applying for numerous grants, focus on researching those that specialise in funding projects similar to yours. A grant tailored to your project increases the likelihood of success.

**Initial Contact:** If you are unsure whether a grant aligns with your requirements, contact the provider first. This step can save you valuable time by avoiding applications for grants that do not suit your project.

**Attention to Detail:** When outlining your funding needs, provide detailed explanations of the benefits the requested items will bring. Clearly demonstrate how your school or community will be positively impacted. Adhere strictly to any word limits and focus only on the most significant information on it.

**Honesty:** Be transparent about your situation and the intended use of the funds. Funders appreciate genuine applications rather than those that simply echo what they expect to hear.

**Obtaining Quotes:** Secure approximately three quotes

for your project to determine an accurate budget.

Requesting too much may lower your chances of approval, while too little may hinder project completion. Remember that the most cost-effective option is not always the best; consider quality, warranties, and customer recommendations.

### Community Involvement:

Engage your entire school or community in your plans. Demonstrating collective support and outlining how the funding will benefit everyone can significantly strengthen your application. Moreover, showing that you have already contributed effort towards fundraising underscores the importance of the grant for your project.

## Conclusion

By carefully preparing your application, selecting the appropriate grant, and involving your community, you can greatly enhance your chances of securing the necessary funds. These top tips are designed to help you craft a compelling and honest proposal that meets your project's needs. We hope these insights empower you to achieve your funding goals and bring your project to life.



# SIMPLE WAYS TO RAISE MORE AT YOUR NEXT FUNDRAISER



One of the best things about a school fundraiser is that attendees usually arrive ready to support the cause, and that often means they're prepared to spend a little money. With this in mind, it's a great opportunity to include some

additional mini fundraisers that can help boost your total profits without overburdening guests and help increase funds for your school needs, like new classroom equipment, a school trip or even a school canopy.

By offering low-cost, fun extras like raffles or refreshments, you can significantly increase the impact of your fundraising efforts. Just be sure to strike a balance so visitors feel encouraged, not overwhelmed.

## Heads or Tails

A guaranteed crowd-pleaser and perfect icebreaker for evening events such as school balls or quizzes. To play, guests pay £1 and stand up. They choose "heads" by placing their hands on their head or "tails" by placing their hands on their backs. The host flips a coin and calls out the result. Anyone who guessed incorrectly sits down. The game continues until only one person remains standing, and they are the winner!

You can award a donated prize for a simple and engaging game that ends in laughter.

## Food & Refreshments

Food and drink stalls are a reliable favourite at any event. Whether it's a hotdog or burger stand at a summer fair or a soup and hot drinks station at an autumn fireworks night, refreshments always go down well.

Hosting an indoor event like a quiz night? Consider adding a meal option, such as a curry or chilli, which can be easily prepared in bulk. It saves families cooking at home and enhances the event experience, therefore making it a popular choice for parents.

## Raffles

A simple, classic, and always effective fundraiser. A mini raffle can easily add to your event's income. Ask for donations from local businesses, or collect small prizes like bottles of wine or gift vouchers. Selling tickets at £1 per strip makes it accessible and encourages spontaneous participation.

## Roll a Pound

This is a fantastic interval game that always draws a crowd. Select a tempting prize, perhaps a bottle of bubbly for adults or a chocolate hamper for children. Create a clear "runway" on the floor, place the prize at the far end, and mark a starting line.

Participants stand at the line and roll £1 coins towards the prize. The closest coin at the end of the round wins. Add a little suspense by labelling the top few coins with the player's initials and removing the furthest rolls as the game progresses.

## Top Tip

If you're planning to include these extras, make sure to mention them when advertising the event. This way, parents can ensure children come prepared with the correct change, ensuring everyone gets the most out of your event.



# LOOKING TO BOOST SCHOOL FUNDS WITH FUN & EFFECTIVE EVENTS? START HERE!

If you're passionate about raising much-needed funds for your school, nursery, or preschool through exciting fundraising events, you're in the right place!

At Able Canopies, we understand how important fundraising is for enhancing learning environments, from raising funds for a school canopy or a school friendship bench and more. That's why we've put together a FREE Official PTA Fundraising Pack, packed full of creative ideas from A to Z, real-life success stories, and helpful resources to help your next event go off without a hitch.

From discos and quizzes to seasonal fairs and unique themed events, there's a wide range of possibilities to suit any school community. Fundraising isn't just about the money; it's about bringing people together. These events are a brilliant way to involve staff, pupils, and parents while building a strong and positive school reputation.

## Planning an Event? Here Are a Few Essential Tips:

### Promote, Promote, Promote!

Reach out to your local newspaper and radio station; many are happy to support school events free of charge. Use your school newsletter and

social media (like a dedicated fundraising Facebook page) to spread the word and keep the community updated. And don't forget to publicly thank those who support and attend!

### Keep Health & Safety Front of Mind

While it may feel daunting, following proper health and safety procedures is crucial. The Health and Safety Executive recommends the following five steps for risk assessment:

1. Identify any potential hazards.
2. Determine who might be harmed and how.
3. Evaluate the risks and decide if more precautions are needed.
4. Record your findings and actions taken.
5. Review your risk assessment regularly and update as needed.

### Check for Licensing

Will you be selling alcohol, running a raffle, or playing music? If so, you may need a licence. Contact your local authority early to check what's required.

### Ensure You're Covered

Make sure your event location has public liability insurance. If you're unsure, contact your insurer to confirm what coverage you have or may

need.

### Don't Forget the Fun!

Fundraising should be enjoyable! When the organisers and attendees are having a great time, the event is more likely to be successful—and guests will want to come back next time.

### Short on Time? Prefer Not to Fundraise?

We've got you covered. Head to our funding help pages on our website for links to grants and alternative funding sources:

[www.ablecanopies.co.uk/funding](http://www.ablecanopies.co.uk/funding)





# FREE DOWNLOADS FOR YOUR SCHOOL

At Able Canopies, we understand the financial challenges that schools face when looking to enhance their outdoor spaces. That's why we offer **two completely free downloadable resources** designed to support your fundraising efforts.

Our School Funding Guide provides a comprehensive list of grants and funding opportunities that schools across the UK can apply for. Alongside this, our A-Z of Fundraising Ideas Pack is filled with creative, school-friendly fundraising activities to help you

generate additional income.

These resources are ideal for Headteachers, School Business Managers, and PTA members looking for practical and effective ways to raise funds.



## A-Z of Fundraising Ideas Pack – Creative Ways to Raise Money for Your School

Packed with a wide range of fun, effective and easy-to-implement ideas, our A-Z of Fundraising Ideas Pack is the perfect tool to inspire your next school fundraising campaign. From bake sales to themed dress-up days, this free guide is designed to help PTA's, teachers, and school leaders raise funds with minimal hassle. Whether you're planning a small event or a larger fundraising initiative, there's something for every school inside.

Download your free copy:  
[www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides/](http://www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides/)



## School Funding Guide – Find Grants to Support Your Next Project

Our School Funding Guide is a free, easy-to-use resource that lists a wide range of grants available to schools across the UK. Whether you're looking to improve your outdoor areas, invest in new facilities, or support pupil well-being, this guide can help you identify funding opportunities suited to your needs. It's ideal for School Business Managers, Headteachers, and PTA's looking to secure additional financial support with confidence.

Download your free copy:  
[www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides/](http://www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides/)



# SUN SAFETY TIPS FOR EARLY YEARS AND SCHOOLS

With summer just beginning, many of us are looking forward to brighter days spent outdoors. But while it's exciting to enjoy the warmth, it's also essential to stay sun safe, especially when it comes to protecting young children.

Research shows that overexposure to the sun during childhood can increase the risk of skin cancer later in life. You can read more about this on the Cancer Research UK website. That's why creating safe, shaded spaces and promoting good sun safety habits are so important in educational settings.

## Did You Know?

In the UK, UV radiation is strongest between 11am and 3pm during the summer months. A simple way to judge the sun's strength is by looking at your shadow; when it's shorter than you are, UV levels are high, and you're more likely to burn.

## Sun Safety Tips for Schools and Nurseries:

- Integrate sun safety education into lesson plans.
- Establish sun safety guidelines for all outdoor activities.
- Increase shaded areas using natural (trees) or structural solutions.
- Encourage staff to model sun-safe behaviour.
- Keep parents informed and involved in supporting sun safety practices.
- Display reminder signage to reinforce key messages around sun safety.

## Why Shade Structures Matter?

If your outdoor areas currently lack adequate shade, they can become uncomfortable and even unsafe during the hottest parts of the day. Installing a canopy or shade structure is a

practical, long-term solution. Not only does it provide UV protection (our structures offer up to 96% UV coverage), but it also creates a cool, inviting environment where children can safely play and learn outdoors, even in bright sunshine or light rain.

Encouraging children to seek shade between 11am and 3pm can form part of their lifelong sun-safe habits, particularly when reinforced by the example of staff.

## Year-Round Outdoor Use

Able Canopies' structures aren't just for sunny days. Our durable, high-quality canopies are designed for all-weather use, making outdoor play and learning possible whatever the forecast.

**Download your free Sun Safety Activity Pack here:**

**[www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides/](http://www.ablecanopies.co.uk/guides/)**



# LEARNING IN THE RAIN: MAKING THE MOST OF EVERY DAY OUTDOORS



When the rain starts to fall, it's all too easy to assume the outdoor fun is over. Many of us instinctively think, "Well, that's it – no outdoor time until it clears up." But at Able Canopies, we believe rain shouldn't stop play, in fact, it's a perfect opportunity for discovery and learning.

There's something wonderfully calming about watching rainfall, and for children, it opens up a world of sensory experiences and scientific learning. Experiencing weather firsthand, especially rain, is a powerful and engaging way for children to understand the natural world around them.

## Making the Most of Rainy Days

In the UK, we experience rainfall on average 44.93% of the year (according to Statista), so instead of letting wet weather hinder outdoor learning, why not embrace it? With the right preparation, you can turn drizzly days into exciting learning adventures.

One of the best ways to make outdoor learning in the rain more accessible is by installing a school canopy. A canopy provides shelter and keeps children dry while still allowing

them to be immersed in the environment. It's especially helpful for children who might not have waterproof clothing on hand. And if you do want to let them venture out and feel the rain directly, that's an option too!

## Teaching Opportunities in the Rain

Rainwater isn't just a feature of the weather; it's a valuable resource and a fantastic learning tool. A great place to start is by showing children how we can collect and reuse rainwater using water butts. These can be fitted to your building's or canopy's guttering system and offer a hands-on way for children to learn about sustainability.

They can use the collected water to hydrate plants in the school garden or outdoor learning areas. It's a meaningful lesson about conservation and the importance of rain to our ecosystems, particularly for wildlife and plants that rely on natural water sources.

## Exploring Temperature and Microclimates

Rainy weather often brings changes in temperature, which also presents an educational

opportunity. Try placing thermometers in different locations outdoors, such as sunny spots, shaded areas, and under canopies. This can help children understand how different environments feel and how to respond to those changes (e.g., moving to a warmer or cooler spot).

This is particularly effective in early years settings, helping young children develop awareness of their surroundings and learn how to regulate their comfort independently.

## Let Nature Do the Teaching

Whether it's the sound of raindrops, the feel of mist on your skin, or the science of water cycles, the natural elements can spark curiosity and wonder. With a canopy to provide year-round shelter, outdoor learning doesn't have to stop when the weather changes; in fact, that's when some of the best learning can begin.

So next time the rain clouds gather, don't head indoors too quickly. Grab your wellies (or your canopy!) and let the weather lead the way to new learning adventures.



# LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM: PRIMARY SCHOOL IDEAS

Outdoor learning is a cornerstone of early years education, yet its presence often diminishes as children transition into primary school. Despite the wealth of benefits associated with outdoor learning, including enhanced physical health, improved mental well-being, and increased engagement.

Many primary schools struggle to integrate it effectively into their curricula. This decline is concerning, especially given the growing body of research highlighting the positive impact of outdoor experiences on children’s development .

Incorporating outdoor learning into primary education doesn't require vast resources or

extensive natural landscapes. Simple, everyday activities conducted in schoolyards or local parks can significantly enrich the learning experience.

Subjects like geography, mathematics, science, and the arts can be brought to life through hands-on outdoor activities, fostering curiosity and a deeper connection to the material. Moreover, outdoor learning supports the development of essential life skills such as problem-solving, resilience, and teamwork.

To facilitate outdoor learning year-round, schools can consider installing canopies or shelters, providing protection from the elements and creating

versatile spaces for instruction. These structures enable educators to extend the classroom beyond its traditional walls, offering students the opportunity to learn in diverse and stimulating environments regardless of weather conditions.

By embracing outdoor learning, primary schools can cultivate more engaged, healthy, and well-rounded students, prepared to navigate both academic challenges and the broader world around them.

Here are some examples of what lessons can be taught outside, giving the child all the benefits of being outdoors whilst learning:

### Geography

Geography is a great lesson to take outdoors. The school grounds offer a micro-environment where pupils can explore their surroundings, helping them better understand physical spaces and their features. Activities such as map-making or guided walks using compasses can make learning interactive and memorable.

### Mathematics

The outdoors presents an excellent opportunity to explore shapes, symmetry and measurements. Pupils can draw shapes with chalk on the playground or measure distances between objects. Concepts like percentages and fractions can be taught using playground elements, like how many benches, bins, or trees make up the total environment.

### Art & Performance Arts

Art flourishes outside. Children can create murals, sketch natural scenery, or build sculptures from natural materials. The outdoor stage is also perfect for drama and musical performances inspired by nature. Using recycled or found objects, children can craft instruments or props, blending creativity with sustainability.

### English

Nature-rich environments offer plenty of inspiration for creative writing. Encourage pupils to write sensory poems or short stories based on what they see, hear, and feel. Reading outdoors also provides a calming setting that enhances engagement and focus.

### Science

Outdoor science activities can include weather tracking, plant studies, or wildlife observation. Using simple tools like magnifying glasses or a weather station, pupils can engage in hands-on learning about ecosystems, forces, and the physical world. For example, students might study a tree over time or explore the physics of flight using paper planes.

### Information Technology

Outdoor lessons can be tech friendly too. Pupils can use tablets to take photos of plants or the weather and upload them for reports. Data collected during science or math lessons can be entered into spreadsheets, making digital skills relevant and purposeful.

### Playtime

Free play outdoors encourages children to explore, solve problems, and engage socially. Open spaces provide fewer restrictions, allowing pupils to develop physically and emotionally. It's a time for discovery, collaboration, and building resilience through imaginative play.

### Providing Outdoor Play and Learning All Year Round

The weather doesn't have to limit outdoor learning. Installing a school canopy, ensures pupils can enjoy outdoor lessons even in rain or snow. Our range of freestanding canopies and tensile fabric structures offers year-round protection without losing that essential outdoor connection.



# SCHOOL CANOPY HIGHLIGHTS

Below is a selection of our canopy installations since our last newsletter in March, to provide you with inspiration for your school grounds.





# Able Canopies: The Canopy Experts



The Coniston Wall Mounted Canopy installed at Purple Oaks Academy in Northampton

Canopies & Covered Walkways

Cycle & Waiting Shelters

Shade Sails & Tensile Structures

Awnings & Playground Accessories

External Works: Surfacing, Fencing etc.

Able Canopies are the canopy experts. We provide safe and stylish weather protection that transforms outside spaces.

- Every year we complete hundreds of successful school canopy installations across the UK
- These canopies provide schools with effective shelter & areas for outdoor learning and dining
- We also work with universities and the retail, leisure & hospitality sectors to effectively transform outside space
- Our team of canopy experts work with schools, architects & contractors to ensure on time, on budget, project completion
- To ensure consistent high quality we control the design, manufacture & installation process of our canopies

***"Absolutely outstanding from start to finish."***

***The contractors working on site were very polite and professional in their job."***

***Would recommend you and this contractor to anyone."***

- Purple Oaks Academy, Northampton  
(pictured above)

Installed April 2025

**If you would like a canopy, shelter or shade sail quotation, contact us today:**

**Call:** 0800 389 9072 | **Email:** [sales@ablecanopies.co.uk](mailto:sales@ablecanopies.co.uk)



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