



EVC newsletter



update from Kent's Outdoor Education Unit

Welcome to the **summer term edition** of the **EVC newsletter**. It has been an extremely busy summer term with many hundreds of educational visits taking place. With so much 'Learning Outside the Classroom' taking place both on our own doorsteps as well as in many far off places we would welcome any feedback you may have from your visit. *Enjoy your well earned summer break!*

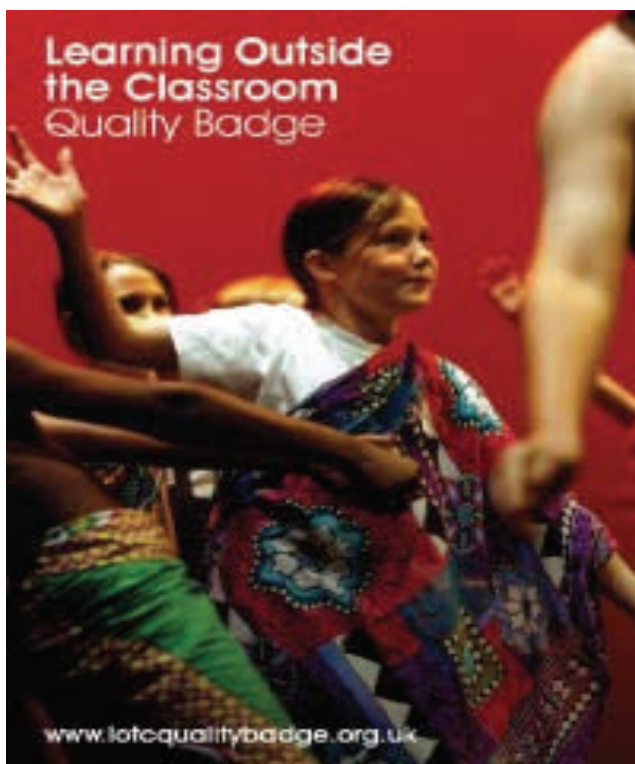
Richard Hayden and Niall Leyden, Outdoor Education Unit.

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"All children have a natural enthusiasm for learning about the world around them. But we also know they can become disengaged if their school day is rigid, routine and boring. If we listen to what children and young people say inspires them most, we can be left in little doubt that good quality learning outside the classroom should be part of our educational mainstream."

Sir Al Aynsley-Green
Children's Commissioner for England



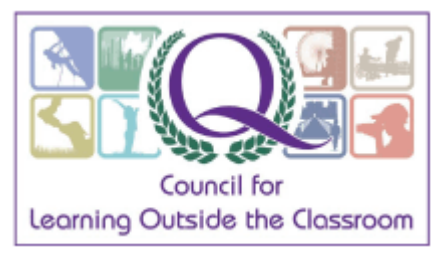
In April the Governments **Manifesto for Learning Outside the Classroom** took another step further with the creation of the new **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom**.

The **Council for Learning Outside the Classroom** will promote and champion learning outside the classroom, to enable all young people to benefit from increased opportunities for high-quality and varied educational experiences.

The website contains a whole range of resources and information to help you get your pupils learning outside the classroom. See their website for details - www.lotc.org.uk

Also now well under way is the **Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Quality Badge** scheme.

The **Quality Badge** provides for the first time a national accreditation combining the essential elements of provision, learning and safety into one easily recognisable and trusted Quality Badge for all types of Learning Outside the Classroom provider organisations.



See their website for details. You can also search for providers that have achieved the Quality Badge - www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/home

"Every young person should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development, whatever their age, ability and circumstances."

Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto November 2006

PGL Activity Programmes -

A message for all schools who book visits to **PGL Centres**. Following recent discussions between Richard Hayden and the PGL Head of Safety and Standards the follow statement has been issued -



“To all **Centre Managers** :-

We have agreed with KCC, that PGL Centres **will provide Kent Schools with a detailed programme of activities prior to travel** (many of you are already doing this!).

Schools will request these programmes, and I have agreed that they will be **available four weeks prior to travel**. Centres need to provide a **single page summary** which **details the school name, arrival date, departure date and planned activities for each day** (if acronyms/abbreviations are used please supply a key).

Paul Kenwright - Head of Safety and Standards, PGL Travel Ltd.”

Use of Photographic Images Policy -



Taking pictures to show the wonderful experiences on educational visits can be a valuable experience, so we have included a link to the newly updated **KCC Use of Photographic Images policy**, for your information.

http://www.kenttrustweb.org.uk/UserFiles/CW/File/Policy/Key_Policies/photographic_image_policy_0309.pdf

e-Go Help and Hints

Remember *don't struggle* with the e-Go system!

1. **Read the HELP SHEETS** (located on your 'my e-Go' homepage)
2. If you have spent several minutes trying to do something and you still do not know what to do - **phone us for help! 01580 715 854**

Using Firefox Internet Browsers -

There is a known conflict when using e-Go with the *Firefox internet browser*. It will not allow you to enter future dates for departure/return when creating a visit. (This may also occur with other browsers such as Google Chrome, Mozilla, etc).

To solve this issue just contact us and we can change the visits departure/return dates for you.

e-Go Automated Email Responses

When a visit is 'PASSED ON' on, an **automatic e mail** is normally *generated*, and is sent to the person who the visit has been passed to.

This informs that person that something on the visit requires their attention - e.g. the status has changed as it has been 'approved or 'declined', etc. or there is a message in the Journal that must be read.

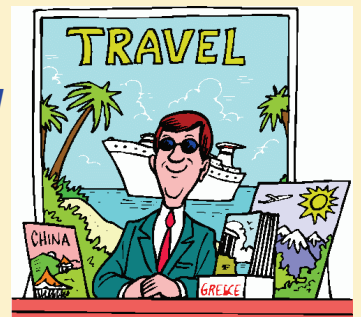
You may not be required to respond or take any action, but you will need to know about the change.

In order to receive the automated email you must have an email address added to your profile on e-Go.



Using Holiday Travel Agents and Tour Operators for Educational Visits

Please note that many Holiday Travel Agents and Tour Operators are not set up to deal with educational visits.



It is therefore very likely that they will not have in place all the controls, checks and safety management systems that we need to ensure that everything is in order to meet KCC requirements for educational visits.

The Holiday Travel Agents and Tour Operators that we have been asked to vet mainly use third party providers, and some of these are then subcontracted further. This means that the Agent has little or no control over what is being booked or delivered.

We therefore advise you to use providers who are specialists in organising educational visits (including those that now hold the new LOTC Quality Badge).

Start thinking about your Ski trips now!

Please remember that -

- Ski Trip **Visit Leaders** need to hold an **Snowsports Organisers Course (SCO)** certificate.
- If you want to **lead your pupils skiing** you will need to hold a valid **Alpine Ski Leader Course (ASCL)** certificate or the snowboarding equivalent. These require a *valid first aid certificate* and need *re-validating every 3 years*.

These training courses and their re-validations are available through **Snowsport England** -

<http://www.snowsportengland.org.uk/teachers-156.html>



School Groups Walking on Rural Roads

More deaths occur on rural roads than on urban ones.

In 2005, over 2,000 people were killed on rural roads compared to just over 1,000 on urban roads. The number of deaths on rural roads has also decreased at a slower rate than deaths on urban roads.

Figures suggest that while the number of collisions is higher in urban areas there is a greater chance of a collision resulting in death on rural roads.

ROSPA, March 2007



Link here - www.rosipa.com/roadsafety/advice/highway/info/rural_road_safety_factsheet_0307.pdf

Think and plan carefully if you are considering walking on rural roads without pavements with school groups -

- **Do you need to take the risk?**
 - Are there alternative routes using pavements, footpaths and bridleways that avoid the use of the roads.
- **What is a suitable group size?**
 - Large groups are much more likely to block cars and restrict overtaking, causing annoyance and dangerous overtaking manoeuvres. It is safer to walk in small groups, staggered with large gaps in-between each group.
- **Can you be seen?**
 - Staff (and/or people at the front and rear of the group) should wear high visibility jackets.
 - Don't walk in the dark along unlit rural roads.
- **Which side of the road should I walk on?**
 - to be easier to be seen by cars (and for the pedestrians to have more time to react) you should walk on the right hand side facing the on-coming traffic.
 - if you reach a blind corner, it would be more dangerous to walk on the right as the traffic would not be able to see you until it was too late. Therefore at blind corners it is important to cross over to left (with traffic coming from behind you) while walking around the corner. Once you are safely around the corner then you can cross back to the right-hand side.

Change of EVC or Headteacher, or a School Merger?

Please do keep us informed of any changes to the EVC or Head at your establishment, or any other changes, so we can keep e-Go up to date, and make sure everyone receives the correct communication and information.

**Kent
County
Council**



**Enjoy your well earned summer break!
But please note that the 6 week deadline continues
during the summer.
Remember to submit your visits for September before
you go on your holidays!**

