

Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge



www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk

If your organisation provides learning outside the classroom experiences for children and young people – from adventurous activities, field studies, expeditions and study tours abroad to learning experiences in museums, theatres, farms and places of worship – then read on to find out more about the new Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge.

What are the benefits of the Quality Badge to organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences?

The Quality Badge will become a national benchmark for the provision of educational visits, recognising organisations that are delivering high quality teaching and learning experiences and managing risk effectively.

It provides a framework for working in partnership with schools, youth groups and local authorities and aims to reduce red tape, making Quality Badge holders a more attractive prospect for those organising educational visits.

The Quality Badge also provides a useful developmental tool, enabling organisations to improve their practice so that they are confident of providing meaningful and inspirational experiences for young people.



Photo credits: Front cover, All Saints C of E School performing their music with movement piece Salam Aleikum at the South East Antismak celebration event, June 2006. Photo: David McHugh
Page 2, Gill Geographical Association. Page 2, Duncan Phillips – reportdigital.co.uk
Page 3, English Outdoor Council Page 3, Diems, 2006.



Who can apply?

The Quality Badge is available to all organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences. There are two routes to the Quality Badge – the route an organisation takes to achieve the Quality Badge will be determined by the degree of risk management required to manage the activities offered. Providers will not be able to choose the route they take.

Route 1

Route 1 is for those organisations whose activities are considered relatively low-risk, such as environmental centres, art galleries, museums, visitor attractions and places of worship.

In order to achieve the Quality Badge your organisation must be committed to providing high quality teaching and learning experiences. You will need to demonstrate that:

- Learning outside the classroom is understood and valued;
- Processes are in place to establish and maintain an effective partnership with schools and other groups of young learners;
- Structures are in place to support and enable effective learning.

Organisations which meet the above criteria can apply for a Quality Badge online at www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk and will be supported through the process by guidance and good practice exemplars. Organisations applying through Route 1 will need to complete an online Self Evaluation Form to demonstrate that they have met a set of quality indicators; a sample of organisations will receive a quality assurance visit from a Quality Badge assessor.

Route 2

Route 2 is for those organisations whose activities require a degree of technical knowledge and experience that are beyond the lay person, such as ensuring children are operating safely on a high ropes course, around livestock and farming equipment, or when entering rivers to make measurements. Residential and overseas visits are also included in Route 2, due to the unique risk management issues they present to teachers. A comprehensive list of activities which need to be assessed through Route 2 can be found on the Quality Badge website.

Providers proceeding through Route 2 must meet the same quality criteria as Route 1, but will also be assessed by the relevant awarding body, appointed by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom, before they are awarded the badge. This is to ensure that they meet the quality indicators and have adequate safety management systems in place.

Route 2 Awarding Bodies

Organisations applying for the Badge through Route 2 will receive an assessment visit from the most appropriate awarding body, listed below:

- Access to Farms (ATF)
- Adventure Activities Industry Advisory Committee (AAIAC)
- Field Studies Council (FSC)
- School Travel Forum (STF)
- Expedition Providers Association (EPA)

The Quality Badge was developed by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Badges are awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom.

For more information about the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, please visit www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk

