



Teachers and voluntary leaders welcome guidance on visits near water

The Central Council of Physical Recreation and the Department for Education and Skills have jointly published practical guidance for teachers, lecturers and youth workers organising and leading groups of young people near water. The guidance will also be of interest to voluntary groups. It applies to visits at home and abroad.

Group Safety at Water Margins outlines a number of top tips to help group leaders minimise risks to themselves and their group when preparing and leading activities which involve working near or in ponds and shallow streams. To obtain your copy telephone 0845 6022260 and quote publication code 0270/2003, alternatively download it from www.ccpr.org.uk or www.teachernet.gov.uk/visits.

Ivan Lewis - Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Young People and Adult Skills said "I am grateful to the Central Council of Physical Recreation for taking the lead in producing *Group Safety at Water Margins*. They have worked with partners from all sectors to produce a good practice guide which enjoys widespread support. Safety during educational visits is paramount and I will watch the impact of *Group Safety at Water Margins* with particular interest".

The guidance can be usefully added to *A Handbook for Group Leaders*, which was published by the DfES in July 2002 as part of the supplement to *Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits*. These documents can also be downloaded at www.teachernet.gov.uk/visits

Group Safety at Water Margins has been warmly welcomed, with David Brierley of the Professional Association of Teachers stating "space does not allow me to list all the extremely helpful points in this document" and Martin Ward of the Secondary Heads Association adding: "the document is sensible and straightforward in its advice". Meanwhile, Jane Town of the Youth Hostels Association, which hosts many groups on educational visits described the document as: "very worthwhile and elements such as the 'top tips' make it easily readable."

The guidance was prepared by a CCPR led working group with representation from the teaching profession, voluntary youth organisations, outdoor leadership and safety bodies. The working group consulted widely and this process has helped to ensure that the guidance reflects a consensus of good practice.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The Central Council for Physical Recreation is an umbrella body for 265 national sporting organisations. CCPR works to ensure its members are able to continue providing opportunities for healthy, physical recreation.

Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits provides good practice advice for LEAs, schools and teachers organising and leading educational visits.

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