

# EDUCATIONAL VISITS

## An update for EVC's

Autumn 2007  
Issue 2

CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
Norfolk County Council

### Introduction to Graham Lodge.



I started on 1<sup>st</sup> June as Adviser- Educational Visits for NCC after moving from Gloucestershire where I was the Outdoor Education Adviser and also managed Outdoor Education Centres.

I am on the executive of the National Outdoor Education Advisers Panel (OEAP), and represent the OEAP on the English Outdoor Council (EOC), Real World Learning Partnership and Learning outside the Classroom (LOtC) Sector group. In July I represented EOC & OEAP at a meeting between DSCF and NASUWT towards the development of new guidance for Fair Investigations



THE OUTDOOR EDUCATION ADVISERS' PANEL  
[www.oeap.info](http://www.oeap.info)

Having spent June & July being inducted to Norfolk's systems and managing the peak time for approvals and visits, I was very heartened by the number and range of visits that are being undertaken, this was confirmed by my monitoring visits. I was very impressed by the huge effort and work that staff undertakes to achieve these memorable experiences for the young people that we serve. This period of observation followed by reflection over the summer has led me to develop the following key aims & tasks in consultation with colleagues. These key aims and tasks are to:

- Encourage & support, high quality planned, progressive programmes of Outdoor Learning opportunities for all young people
- Simplify guidance and approval systems.
- Increase training and advice services
- Move the focus from Health & Safety towards curriculum development and improvement agendas.
- Be empowering and supportive by increasing delegation where possible
- Increase monitoring in the field
- Create linkage to the Learning outside the Classroom (LOtC) Manifesto developments to encourage local to global visits across the full range of curriculum areas.
- Make improved use of IT

### Updates EdVol/Evolve.

**EVOLVE** with **eduFOCUS**  
Educational Visits Online Virtual Environment

A key process in achieving the above aims is the introduction of a new Internet based notification and approval system - Evolve. This was outlined in MI 131/07. We hope to have all existing users of EdVol on to the new system by October Half term and all other establishments using it by Easter. It is very user-friendly and no specific training should be required, however a series of twilight road shows will be held, around the County to meet EVC's & staff and give updates and introduce Evolve.

Dates : <http://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/index.cfm?s=1&m=1376&p=1046,index>

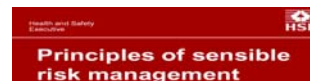


**Norfolk** County Council  
at your service

## Guidelines rewrite.

Over this Autumn/Winter the Visits Guidelines are being rewritten. The key principles of the rewrite are:

- To cover the full range of Children's Services
- E based to allow easy access and updating
- Linked to simplified planning and approvals process via EVOLVE
- Via Hyperlinked Flow diagram only small sections of guidance will need to be accessed/read for most visits.



Is not about generating  
useless paperwork  
mountains

## Training.

An increased range of EVC and other outdoor and adventurous activity training opportunities are being planned and developed for further details contact [louise.reeves@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:louise.reeves@norfolk.gov.uk) or go to <http://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/index.cfm?s=1&m=1376&p=1053,index>

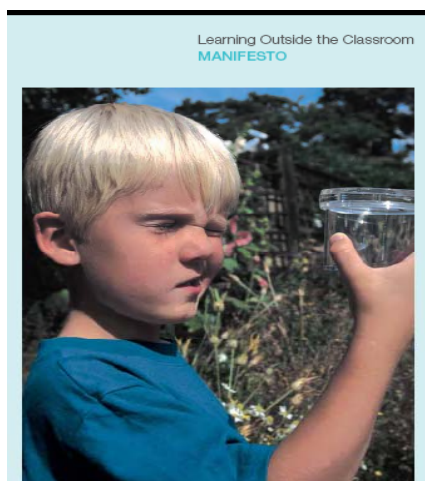
## National developments: SEF/OFSTED

In January OFSTED inspectors were briefed on LOTC and the revised SEF forms which require evidence of Out of Classroom Learning [5b].

<http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/portal/site/Internet/menuitem.eace3f09a603f6d9c3172a8a08c08a0c/?vgnextoid=eafbc8d8b0b5e010VgnVCM1000003507640aRCRD>



This is a major opportunity for schools to flag up the work they undertake on Educational Visits. A thematic review and report of LOTC is also planned to be undertaken by OFSTED this year.



## Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto.

This was launched last November details:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/resource/materials/outsideclassroom/>

Following this a National Advisory group has been established which has developed a LOTC Action Plan:

Some of its first actions have been to (via tendering):

- commission out the development of Safety Badges for each sector of Visits
- commission the production of Out and About Pack for Schools, which includes the updating of HASPEV.

These are anticipated for Summer 2008.

## New Websites for Norfolk Environmental Education and Outdoor Learning

<http://www.schools.norfolk.gov.uk/go/envedu/>

<http://www.nccoutdoorededucation.co.uk/thecentre.php>

## Contact the Team

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