

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

An update for EVC's

Summer 2008
Issue 3

CHILDREN'S SERVICES
Norfolk County Council



Did you know Ed Balls was born in Norwich?

Announcement by Ed Balls – Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families. *New guidance due late summer.*

Teachers will find it easier to take pupils on school trips with more help and advice, less bureaucracy and quality badges for popular destinations, thanks to new guidance from the Department of Children, Schools and Families. The measure is included in the 'Staying Safe' Action Plan.

Evidence shows that learning outside of the classroom brings benefits to pupils such as deeper subject learning, increased self confidence and raised achievement. It can also help young people to understand and manage risk.

The Out and About guidance will build on the widely-used, long-standing Health and Safety Of Pupils on Educational Visits; it will emphasise the enabling effect of sensible risk management as advocated by the Health and Safety Executive and others. No more than three A4 forms should be necessary for most off-site visits.



Update on Evolve.

Thank you to all who are using Evolve. As at 13 May 2008 we have 6044 staff users of this system, approved 535 Category B visits and you have approved 769 Category A visits. All High Schools, Special Schools and Area Youth Service Teams are using the system with 82% of Primary's also having access. Those using Evolve have been impressed with its ease of use and user friendly approach and guidance.

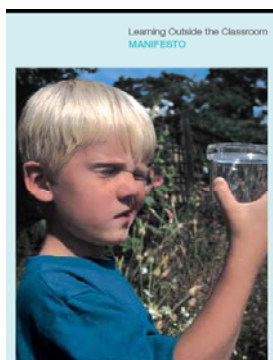
Please can EVC's & Heads ensure they have entered their e mail address, this then allows auto e mail confirmation when visits are approved.

Guidance rewrite update

With Graham having met with the majority of you through the Evolve Twilight Sessions, he now has a good idea of the issues you have in relation to Educational Visits and the current guidance. Once the National Guidance is published in June, Graham will continue the rewrite of the Guidance with its publication in the Autumn 2008. Along with this EVC update training will be available to cover the changes to the guidance and the national perspective. The key principles of the rewrite will be:

- 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 Hyperlink Flow diagram only small sections of guidance will need to be accessed/read for most visits.

Please note that an interim update has been completed and can be found on the Educational Visits Website and on Evolve.



Learning outside the Classroom Manifesto.

This was launched in November 2006 details: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/resourcematerials/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.

A Broad, Balanced and Progressive Programme

Good Practice is to map all of the Learning outside the Classroom your school undertakes to consider if it equals a Broad, Balanced and Progressive Programme for all of your young people.

County View of number of Category B visits.

The table below shows the total number of Category B visits approved by the Local Authority. It is good to see a year on year increase.

Academic Year	Total number of category B visits
2004/2005	1149
2005/2006	1455
2006/2007	1592
From September 2007 to end March 2008	781

Evaluation of Educational Visits

A big thank you to those of you that completed and returned your evaluation of visits carried out between June 2007 and February 2008. A total of 979 evaluation requested was sent out with 342 returned (35%). The average enjoyment rate for this period was 9 out of 10. Your comments have been noted and where applicable concerns addressed with the providers.

Training.

An increased range of Educational Visits Training is available from April 2008. We are pleased to be able to offer the following:

- ◆ Training for New Educational Visits Co-ordinators.
- ◆ Educational Visits Leader Training AT Holt Hall FSC or Whitlingham OEC. This is certificated by the OEAP (Outdoor Education Advisers Panel) as a one-day practical course, to give Teachers, Leaders and others involved in leading groups on educational visits, confidence and skills by sharing good practice. It includes active risk management, basic road safety including crossing with groups and near water safety. It only costs £80.00. The two summer dates are 3 June at Holt Hall FSC and on 18 June at Whitlingham OEC.
- ◆ Educational Visits Administrators training.

For further details contact louise.reeves@norfolk.gov.uk or go to our website at <http://schools.norfolk.gov.uk/go/educationalvisits>

Ski Monitoring



16 schools went skiing at Half Term + 3 at Easter. Funded by the County Councils Risk & Insurance office Graham caught a cheap Ryan Air flight and visited 9 of the 12 groups in Austria. It was pleasing to see the very good standard of organisation by staff and rapid progression of the pupils on the slopes, as well as to see first hand the range of different styles & standards of the ski package providers.

HSE Myth from February 2008

The myth

If a pupil is hurt, the teacher is likely to be sued.

The reality

The main legal duties lie with the employer, not the teacher – or even the Head teacher, unless they own the school and employ the staff. We can't find a single instance in the past five years of a teacher being personally sued for compensation. Over the years a handful of teachers have been prosecuted following very serious incidents, but only where they failed to follow direct instructions and departed from common sense. Teachers who act responsibly will be on the right side of the law.

HSE website www.hse.gov.uk/myth/feb08

Great health and safety myths



The myth If a pupil is hurt, the teacher is likely to be sued

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Over the years a handful of teachers have been prosecuted following very serious incidents, but only where they failed to follow direct instructions and departed from common sense.

Teachers who act responsibly will be on the right side of the law.

Mobile Climbing Walls on Establishment premises

When Adventurous Activities including mobile climbing walls and archery are brought onto your school or establishment site, please treat as a Category B visit and notify us via Evolve.

Contact the Team

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Norfolk County Council
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every child matters
a brighter future for Norfolk's young people