



Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge

If your organisation provides educational experiences for children and young people in the natural environment sector 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 brings together existing safety and quality badges to form one easily recognised and understood system for schools and other users. It provides a national benchmark for the provision of educational visits and recognises organisations like yours delivering high quality teaching and learning experiences and managing risk effectively.

It intends to provide a framework for working in partnership with schools 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 will also enable organisations to improve their practice so that they are confident of providing meaningful and inspirational experiences for young people.



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. Route 2 is for those organisations providing activities that require a degree of technical knowledge and experience beyond the lay person. For example river and coastal fieldwork, where young people enter the water to make measurements, and studies in caves and mines. In most cases, these types of activities in the natural environment will be accredited through Route 2, because risks can change with weather, tides, terrain and the desire of some people to go beyond very safe public areas.

Route 1

(for which there is a separate leaflet) is for those organisations offering only activities that are considered relatively low risk and activities that take place wholly in controlled areas used by the public, such as botanical gardens and zoos.

More information can be found at www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk.

How to apply

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. Providers in the natural environment sector proceeding through Route 2 will be assessed by an independent body linked to the Field Studies Council (FSC) before they are awarded the badge to ensure that they meet a set of quality indicators and have adequate safety management systems in place.

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

