

The Role of the Outdoor Education Unit

Our aim is to support schools and individual school staff to develop, plan and manage high quality and safe Educational Visits and Adventurous Activities, and to help schools develop and promote Outdoor Learning.

The Outdoor Education Unit was established in 2003 and now works with over 550 schools and other educational establishments including Community, Foundation and Academy schools, Pupil Referral Units, and KCC's Early Help and Preventive Services provision.

We also provide an extensive range of CPD and INSET training for over 200 teachers and other staff each year, supporting schools to develop and integrate Outdoor Learning into the Curriculum.



“Learning Outside the Classroom contributed significantly to raising standards and improving personal, social and emotional development” - Ofsted

**“If you want to increase attendance, improve behaviour and raise achievement, get kids out of the classroom
- Mick Waters**

We provide –

- ✓ High quality professional advice, guidance and support for developing and managing Outdoor Learning, Educational Visits and Adventurous Activities.
- ✓ Access to Advisers who are qualified and experienced teachers and senior outdoor practitioners, with a wealth of knowledge across a wide range of activity disciplines.
- ✓ High quality, up to date and nationally recognised advice, guidance and good practice as members of the national Outdoor Education Advisors Panel (OEAP) network.
- ✓ Direct support for Educational Visits Coordinators (EVCs), Visit Leaders when planning educational visits and outdoor learning activities e.g. with adventurous activities, overseas visits, cultural and language exchanges, expeditions, etc.
- ✓ Direct support for Heads and Governors developing policies and procedures, and in the event of incidents or accidents.
- ✓ Assurances for Headteachers and school staff that adventurous activity and educational visits risk assessments and risk management strategies are safe and appropriate.
- ✓ Access to a comprehensive Vetted Provider Database of individually checked educational providers of adventurous activities and residential accommodation, using nationally recognised standards.
- ✓ Monitoring and approval of educational visits, including 24-7 access to our Educational Visits system and visit management tools to support EVCs in school.
- ✓ Prompt response to emails and phone calls thought-out the year (not just term time only).
- ✓ Specific Educational Visits advice and guidance on –
 - *Schools legal, duty of care and loco parentis responsibilities.*
 - *Good practice group/class management strategies.*
 - *Linking Outdoor Learning activities to the Curriculum.*
 - *Inclusion and adaptation of activities for special needs.*
 - *First Aid and management of medical needs.*
- ✓ Long-standing evidence of supporting schools with educational visits and Outdoor Learning by having established working relationship with more than 550 Kent schools for over 10 years, advising on a wide range of visit and activities.
- ✓ Experience of checking and approving thousands of educational visits over many years – from on-site and local activities to overseas expeditions and language exchanges.
- ✓ High quality CPD and INSET training and curriculum support for developing Outdoor Learning activities to support pupil development at school and further afield.

Contact Us –

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