

## Who is the 'provider'?

Many educational visits advice and guidance documents refer to the 'Provider'. **But who is an educational visits Provider?**

The '**Provider**' is any company/organisation/individual who is providing a service to the school or youth centre, irrespective of whether they do or do not charge for this service.

If you use a travel/tour company to organise any aspects of your itinerary, that company is the 'Provider' for those aspects.

If you book coach travel, flights, hotels, etc. yourself, neither you nor the school is the provider. The provider is the coach company, the airline, the hotel company, etc.

As part of the support that the LA gives to schools in relation to educational visits the **Outdoor Education Unit checks and 'vets' Providers** that offer **residential facilities** and **adventurous activities**.

However, the school still has the responsibility to ensure that any other providers involved (e.g. non-residential and adventurous activity providers such as museums, environmental centres, etc) are reputable and will provide a safe service. It is also very important to check that any Provider holds at least £5million Public Liability Insurance cover.

KCC checks and 'vets' providers on behalf of school and youth groups, and maintains a database of hundreds of currently vetted providers for use on educational visits. New providers can be vetted for use; please contact the Outdoor Education Unit before making any bookings as not all providers are suitable and appropriate to use for educational visits.

The KCC Outdoor Education Unit database of 'vetted' providers for Educational Visits is located on **e-Go** - <https://www.qes24.com/kent/ego/Live/>