

The Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge website

Anne-Julie Burdet from 4Children updates on the progress of the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge website (www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk)

The Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge provides a national accreditation combining the essential elements of learning and risk management. For the first time there is one easily recognisable and trusted badge covering every type of learning outside the classroom provider organisation.

The badge was developed after a far-reaching consultation with those involved with children and young people's services revealed the need for a common scheme providing assurance of the quality educational experiences on offer.

The Quality Badge website went live at the end of January 2009 enabling providers to go through the accreditation process. Over 160 providers have already been awarded the Quality Badge and a further 500 are currently working towards the accreditation.



Fifty Quality Badge Assessors have been recruited and trained to carry out Quality Assurance assessments of 10 per cent of Route One providers. This involves a visit to the venue or setting to ensure the Quality Badge standards are fully met. Every Route One provider assessed so far has retained their badges with flying colours.

Since 1st April 2009, when the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom assumed responsibility for the Quality Badge scheme, 4Children has been working closely with the Council's Chief Executive to drive the Quality Badge scheme forward. The website is continuing to be a key source of information for providers, generating over 17,000 visits from providers, schools and local authorities to date. Additionally, over 600 queries have been logged on the Quality Badge Helpline, where we endeavour to respond to all queries within the same working day.

The most popular website page is the Quality Badge Holders database, where schools can search for details of LOTC Quality Badge holders across the country. Schools can search for organisations by name, location, type of provision and age range at

<http://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk/badgesearch>.

For more information on applying for the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, please visit: www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk