

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation launches new initiative to encourage innovation in school-led residential

Denise Barrows, education and learning programme manager at the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, introduces a new £2.25 million initiative to help schools make the most of residential learning experiences.

The Paul Hamlyn Foundation launched its new initiative, *Learning Away*, at the Learning Outside the Classroom national conference on 2nd October, to help schools make the most of residential learning experiences.

Learning Away is a six-year, £2.25 million programme which ultimately aims to achieve significant shifts nationwide in schools' commitment to providing these opportunities for their pupils.

The Foundation is inviting groups of schools to submit proposals setting out how they would like to develop and pilot high quality residential and embed them within the wider curriculum. These activities should act as key interventions to maximise pupils' achievements or support a strategic change process within the school or group of schools.

Applications are invited from primary, secondary and special schools across the UK. Early Years settings, independent schools and contributions from other partners may be included within the proposals. The Foundation expects to select five to eight groups of schools (around 30 schools in total) to work with, and will be providing some funding as well as ongoing support and guidance to selected schools from September 2009.

The Foundation is particularly interested in proposals which intend to demonstrate innovative approaches to:

- the type of activities and learning experiences that can take place within a residential setting and the learning outcomes that can be achieved from these;
- the integration of pedagogical or curriculum approaches that are developed or predominant in a residential setting within day to day teaching and learning practices back in school; and/or
- overcoming structural, organisational or funding issues that commonly prevent schools from committing to residential as fully as they would like.

The deadline for first stage applications to the initiative is **Friday 13th February 2009**. Full details and application guidance is available in the Education and Learning section of the Paul Hamlyn Foundation website, www.phf.org.uk.