

## **Manifesto update**

*Keep up-to-date with all the latest news on the Manifesto.*

### **1. Ed Balls launches the new LOtC Quality Badge**

The new Quality badge was launched by Ed Balls MP, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, on 2nd October. In the launch press release he said:

“I am delighted that teacher and headteacher associations, alongside over 1,000 other organisations and educational providers, now back the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto. Their hard work developing the Manifesto pledges over the last two years will pay off for generations of pupils in the future.

“It is not right to try and wrap children in cotton wool as they grow up. Trips and getting out of the classroom should be part and parcel of school life. Learning outside the classroom is not some optional extra. It should excite young people, deepen their understanding of classroom subjects and are a vital to make young people independent, confident and self-reliant.

“The vast majority of England’s eight million children go safely on school trips or learn outside the classroom at some stage. But we know that more can be done to make sure it is an integral part of every child’s education.

“Today’s package makes a clear case for the benefits of learning outside the classroom. It is a massive step forward to making it easier for teachers to take pupils out of the classroom - giving them the confidence and tools to organise outside the classroom environment; cutting paperwork and red tape on visits; and breaking down the fear of litigation.

“It is time that the fear of compensation culture is consigned to history once and for all. The fact is that individual teachers do not get sued because their employer holds public insurance liability and prosecutions for gross negligence are extremely rare – against the tens of thousands of trips that happen day in, day out.

“The bottom line is that teachers and parents should be confident in organising visits outside the classroom and no child should ever be denied educational opportunities because of it.”

### **2. Manifesto Signatories**

We now have almost 1,200 signatories to the Manifesto and it is really very good news that the NASUWT has become one of the latest organisations to sign up.

Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT, has stated that:

“The perception of the classroom as the only space for learning needs to be challenged and NASUWT is excited to see there is such a positive direction of travel on this agenda as part of the Children’s Plan.

“Learning outside the classroom can make a significant contribution to the development of children and young people. When it is well organised and responsive, pupils become more engaged and enthusiastic learners, giving teachers another resource to help bring the curriculum alive.”

### 3. LOtC website [www.lotc.org.uk](http://www.lotc.org.uk)

The new Learning Outside the Classroom website [www.lotc.org.uk](http://www.lotc.org.uk) is now live.

#### The main sections of the website are:

- Out & About guidance
- Out & About CPD modules
- News and events
- Case studies
- Resources and Research
- Quality Badge
- Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

It is now possible to use this site to **sign up to or download copies of the Manifesto**. We also have a **new Manifesto leaflet** which explains more about the aims of Learning Outside the Classroom, along with some examples of good practice. It can be downloaded from the website <http://www.lotc.org.uk/getdoc/72586aa5-78e3-4487-95df-4d496a4b80c4/LOtC-Leaflet>. However, if you would like to order multiple hard copies for events, etc. please contact the LOtC PR team on [lotc@bbpr.com](mailto:lotc@bbpr.com).

There are various sections within the website which will enable any organisation with an interest in learning outside the classroom to promote forthcoming events, provide news articles, and share pieces of research or good practice case studies.

**The News and Events pages** give visitors to the website an opportunity to share information and experiences. If you know of any sector-specific events, such as conferences, workshops or activity weeks, taking place nationally or within your local area that you think are worth sharing, please let us know. Likewise, if you have come across an interesting sector-specific news article that relates to learning outside the classroom, you can let us know by contacting us at [lotc@cfbt.com](mailto:lotc@cfbt.com).

**The Case Studies pages** contain a selection of case studies that have been submitted to us to share good practice within Learning Outside the Classroom. These case studies cover a variety of sectors and scenarios. The case studies listed change periodically, and so if you have a case study from your organisation that you would like to share with visitors to this site, please use the ‘submit a case study’ form <http://www.lotc.org.uk/Case-studies/Case-studies/CaseStudyEntry>

Over the coming months the site will become more interactive and more guidance, case studies and resources will be added. We have a further two phases planned, in late November and January 2009, when additional functions will be added. We welcome your **feedback and comments** so please do contact us at [lotc@cfbt.com](mailto:lotc@cfbt.com)

#### 4. Out & About Package – ‘How to’ guidance and CPD modules

The Out & About package has now been published and can be found on the new Learning Outside the Classroom website <http://www.lotc.org.uk/Out-and-about-guidance/Introduction>. Both the ‘How to’ guidance and CPD modules can be used by anyone working with children and young people from 0 to 19, whether in schools, early years or youth group settings.

The ‘How to’ guidance is organised into three main sections:

- What are we trying to achieve?
- How do we organise learning?
  - Developing your Learning Outside the Classroom policy
  - Planning Learning Outside the Classroom within the School Curriculum
  - Organising Learning Outside the Classroom experiences
- How well are we achieving our aims?

A more detailed understanding of the ‘How to’ guidance structure can be gained by looking at the diagram at <http://www.lotc.org.uk/Out-and-about-guidance/What-is-in-the-guidance>

The **CPD modules** have been written in conjunction with the ‘How to’ guidance materials and support the principles outlined in them. There are six modules, for a range of participants, and are designed as off-the-shelf resources that can be delivered as whole-day training, or in sessions. You will find trainer notes, facilitation scripts by session, PowerPoint presentations to support them, and all the materials you need, including the delegate resource booklet, to run a high-quality, focused training experience.

They can be downloaded at <http://www.lotc.org.uk/Out-and-about-CPD-modules/The-CPD-modules>

We are also now developing a similar **support package for LOtC providers** (of advice, exemplars, case studies and training). This second phase of ‘Out & About’ will support organisations/settings wishing to provide high-quality learning outside the classroom experiences for young people and interested in gaining the LOtC Quality Badge (see below). These resources will begin to be made available from November 2008.

#### 5. ‘Out & About’ Package – LOtC Quality Badge

The new Quality badge was launched on 2nd October and will go live towards the end of January 2009, when the first badges will be awarded.

More detail about the Quality Badge can be found on the developing website at <http://www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk>

On the website you can read and download the badge’s **quality indicators**, which have now been agreed and have been piloted.

You can also find out more about the five awarding bodies for Route 2; the organisations that will be undertaking assessments of the providers offering activities in their 'sector'. The website shows full details of these Route 2 activities and the awarding body that will be assessing providers of these activities.

The DCSF has now appointed **4Children** as its contractor to manage the Quality Badge scheme. <http://www.4children.org.uk/>

We are now working closely with 4Children to write an on-line Self Evaluation Form for Route 1 providers. This SEF will be available on the website in January. We are also beginning the process of building the assessment team who will carry out the random quality assurance visits for Route 1. This team will be in place to begin carrying out visits from February.

## **6. Teaching Outside the Classroom**

Teaching Outside the Classroom supports Initial Teacher Training (ITT) providers and settings other than schools, such as museums, galleries, theatres, farms, field studies centres and outdoor education centres to develop high quality placements for trainee teachers.

### **Why get involved?**

- Join the network of ITT providers and settings other than schools across England to develop high quality placements for trainee teachers
- Search the TOtC database to find organisations to partner with in your area
- Get free one-to-one advice from the TOtC team of advisors
- Showcase the placements you are already developing

### **What is happening already?**

The Teaching Outside the Classroom website showcases a number of interesting case studies of organisations already providing placements. For example, PGCE trainee teachers at the University of East London planned and delivered a one day visit for a group of 15 Gifted and Talented Year 8 pupils from Seven Kings High School to the British Museum. Read more at <http://www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com/case-studies/university-of-east-london-secondary-itt-and-the-british-museum->

To find out more, read other case studies or to register your organisation visit [www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com](http://www.teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com) or email [info@teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com](mailto:info@teachingoutsidetheclassroom.com)