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## Outdoor Education Adviser

Outdoor learning and off site visits can have a profound effect on children and young people and their well-being; positively influencing behaviour and relationships, developing self-confidence and raising achievement. In an educational setting, 'real' experiences make learning more engaging, relevant, enjoyable and memorable and should be integral to the establishment's work.

The Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 places overall responsibility for health and safety with the employer. As Advisers may work across several employers (including their own) it is critical that they understand who the employer is in each case.

Employers have duties to ensure:

- So far as is reasonably practicable the health, safety and welfare of all employees and others who may be harmed by their activities.
- That arrangements for supporting pupils with medical conditions conform to Section 100 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

In addition, local authorities have a duty of care for the health and safety of all young people for whom they are responsible under the Children Act 2004.

Establishments should have access to expert advice. It is good practice for employers such as local authorities and large Multi-academy trusts to have an accredited **Outdoor Education Adviser** (or equivalent post), or for one (or more) of the employer's staff to have the functions of an Outdoor Education Adviser in their job description. Such a person would need experience in teaching or youth work and have a record of leading safe and beneficial off-site visits, as well as occupying a position of sufficient authority in the organisation to influence change and people.

You may have a different job title, such as:

- Adviser for Educational Visits;
- Consultant for Educational Visits;
- Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Adviser;
- Offsite Visits Adviser

A recommended person specification for an Outdoor Education Adviser includes the following:

- Able to provide advice and guidance towards developing high quality outdoor learning and how it may support school improvement and overall effectiveness.
- A good understanding of the legal responsibilities and powers of the employer and the Local Authority.
- A good understanding of the practical difficulties affecting the management of groups of young people and vulnerable adults in a wide range of venues and environments.
- Competent in sensible and proportional assessment of risk and its management in a variety of contexts relevant to Visits/Outdoor Learning.
- Significant practical experience of leading Visits/Outdoor Learning to enable you to advise on a broad range of provision. This may need to include adventure activities and expeditions, as well as more local excursions.
- An ability to interpret, refine and present national guidance at a local level.
- Able to organise, facilitate and/or deliver effective training of EVCs and Leaders.

Key Responsibilities must be clarified in your job description and should include:

- Understanding the legal framework within which Outdoor Learning, Off-site visits and learning outside the classroom are delivered. You can find further guidance in document 3.2 '*Underpinning legal framework and duty of care*'.
- Interpreting, refining and presenting national guidance at a local level.
- Providing advice, support and monitoring in relation to developing high quality outdoor learning, off-site visits and learning outside the classroom.
- Networking with appropriate national agencies e.g. Outdoor Education Advisers Panel (OEAP).
- Informing your employer of national requirements and initiatives.
- Providing guidance and support on proportional risk management.
- Establishing suitable and proportional sample monitoring of visits.
- Developing suitable systems to ensure that establishment training needs are identified and serviced.
- Ensuring that establishment Heads/Managers and EVCs understand that all leaders involved in visits require access to training to ensure that the employers' guidance is properly understood.
- Developing systems to meet the employer's requirements with regard to formal notification and approval.
- Organising, facilitating and/or delivering effective training for EVCs and leaders.
- Establishing clear guidance defining leader competence for all types of Outdoor Learning, Off-site visits and learning outside the classroom and how such competence may be assessed.
- Facilitating external support from specialists e.g. adventure activity technical advisers.

