

DfES Update on the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto

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We would like to bring you up to date with the latest news on the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto.

As you are probably aware, the Manifesto partnership was launched by the Secretary of State for Education on 28th November 2006 at the Natural History Museum. The Manifesto is a 'movement' or joint undertaking that many different stakeholders have helped to create and to which anyone can sign up. Its aim is to ensure that all young people have a variety of high quality learning experiences outside the classroom environment. Please find attached a PDF version of the Manifesto, the aims document that will underpin the work of the partnership.

There is now a Manifesto website
www.teachernet.gov.uk/learningoutsidetheclassroom

where you can find out more and order free copies of the document. If you would like over 20 copies of the document, please send your request to this email address.

As the main aim of the Manifesto is to 'make a difference' to the amount and quality of learning outside the classroom, we would urge you (if you haven't already done so) to endorse and champion the Manifesto by becoming a signatory. We would also like to encourage you to pledge your support by making public the actions you are already taking or intend to take. Details of how to do both can be found on the Manifesto website. You can also see which organisations and individuals have signed up and made pledges. We are delighted that there are already over 330 signatories and nearly 100 pledges. We would like many, many more!

We were very pleased with the huge amount of positive publicity generated by the launch. However, we now need to spread the news of the Manifesto even more widely. If you can help, we'd like to invite you to put a link to the Manifesto site onto your website (if you have one) and/or promote the Manifesto in any of your communication channels (i.e. newsletters, magazines, etc). We've therefore attached some sample content for this purpose - please feel free to adapt this. We'd like to thank all the organisations that have already started to publicise the Manifesto in this way. You are helping to raise awareness and encourage support, endorsement and pledges of action.

One of the key proposed measures of the Manifesto is the creation of a new, independent LOfC Council to bring together providers from the public, private and voluntary sectors, to take ownership of and achieve the aims of the Manifesto. There needs to be some detailed thought around the creation of the new body. In order to facilitate discussion between the wide range of stakeholders who need to be involved, it is our intention to have an interim 'advisory group' in place within the next month. We will let you know more, when we have more news.

Other News

To coincide with the launch of the Manifesto, the DfES is consulting publicly

<<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=10624>>

on draft guidance on: How to investigate fairly after any accidental injury to a pupil. You can download a copy of this document and find out how to take part in the consultation at

www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=10624

The deadline for responses is 21st March 2007.

Consultation on Statutory Guidance on Section 6 Education & Inspections Act (Positive Activities for Young People) Section 6 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 introduces important new duties on local authorities regarding positive educational and recreational leisure time activities for young people; including the duty to secure access for young people to sufficient positive activities. A consultation on the statutory guidance covering these duties runs until 30th March 2007. To participate in the consultation, please see:

www.dfes.gov.uk/consultations/conDetails.cfm?consultationId=1432

Consultation on new secondary curriculum. QCA are currently running a public consultation on the proposed changes to the curriculum at Key stages 3 and 4. We would encourage you to give your views on these important changes. The consultation runs until 30th April 2007 and can be accessed via

www.qca.org.uk/secondarycurriculumreview

Learning outside the classroom will also be part of the revised School Self-Evaluation Form (SEF), which is due to be published very soon. The revised SEF should therefore encourage schools to evaluate and develop their current activities and show how they contribute to learners' enjoyment and achievement.

One of the Growing Schools programme's pledges of support for the Manifesto is the production of 'Watch Us Grow', a new TV series and teaching resource. The series aims to inspire teachers by showing the educational and behavioural value of using gardening, growing and cooking as part of the national curriculum. 'Watch Us Grow' began on Teachers TV on 4th January 2007 and ran for six weeks. The series observes how groups of children at six schools engage with gardening and reap the benefits. All six programmes in the series are viewable at any time on the Teachers TV website at www.teachers.tv. A DVD containing the series and teaching resources, plus extra interviews and guidance notes and a seventh unscreened programme is available from the DfES, for a nominal charge of £4.50 (to cover postage and packing). Further details can be found on the Growing Schools website at www.teachernet.gov.uk/growingschools

Frequently asked questions

How can our organisation/local authority/school get some of the £2.7million?

The Manifesto is supported by £2.7 million funding designed to tackle the barriers to learning outside the classroom that schools and the out-of-classroom learning sector have told us about. This funding will largely be used to deliver an 'Out and About' package of training and guidance to help teachers make more regular use of learning outside the classroom, covering areas such as high quality, safely managed, low paperwork trips, and a new family of safety badges. Unfortunately we are not envisaging directly supporting schools and local authorities to take their pupils on visits, but we hope that the 'Out & About package' and associated support will make it possible for more teachers and support staff to use learning outside the classroom as a regular part of teaching. The 'Out and About' package will be put out to tender.

What will the new Council do? When will it come into existence?

Before a new body is created some key questions need to be tackled. What will its purpose be? How will it add value and not replicate existing structures? How can it effectively represent the wide range of stakeholders involved? We want to bring together the 'advisory group' to address these issues to ensure that the new body has a clear purpose and direction and is 'owned' by the Manifesto partnership. It is difficult to determine the exact timescales as much will depend on the status of the new body, however we would estimate in the region 12-18 months before the Council is in operation. We expect the advisory group to meet for the first time within the next couple of months.

How can I become involved in the advisory body/new Council?

Clearly, with already over 330 Manifesto signatories it would be impractical for everyone to be involved. However, we want to ensure that the advisory body is broadly representative of the sectors/stakeholders involved in the partnership. Those members sitting on the advisory group will be asked to represent their sector (e.g. the outdoor education sector, local authorities) not their individual organisation. Our Manifesto champions will also be working with individual sectors to bring in views from all signatories and look at how the partnership can be developed on a practical level e.g. improved collaborative working.

How the Manifesto will link up with other programmes/activity like Sustainable Schools, Every Child Matters, personalised learning, Growing Schools and Engaging Places?

There is a large range of activity across government which the Manifesto supports or is supportive of the Manifesto. It is our task to ensure that this work is joined up to ensure maximum impact. Most importantly, communications and the offer of support to the end user (i.e. schools and others involved in delivering LOtC) need to be coherent and tailored to meeting their needs. One of the first things we aim to do is illustrate the linkages between the Manifesto and other key work streams.

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