

Newsletter 2 March 09

**Interesting article for organisers of Outdoor Pursuits and the like:**

**Quality Badge should act as safe school-trip marker (04/03/2009)**

The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and Cadbury World are among the first 65 organisations to be awarded a Quality Badge that proves to schools planning pupil outings that they have suitable risk management processes in place.

Announcing the successful applicants on 13 February, Children's secretary Ed Balls called on teachers to use the scheme to make informed decisions about suitable venues. Said Balls: "I am determined that no child should miss out on these vital experiences because of unnecessary red tape, or because of a cotton-wool culture that discourages all kinds of risk."

To gain the Badge, low-risk providers, such as museums, fill out an online self-assessment and are subject to spot checks. All higher-risk providers, such as adventure activity centres and farms, will only be awarded the Badge after checks by independent assessors.

Chris Keates, general secretary of teaching union NASUWT, said: "No activity is ever risk-free. However, the integrity of the Quality Badge means that providers holding the badge must be those that manage risk properly, comply with good practice and statutory provisions on health and safety, and are committed to working constructively with schools to give every pupil the best possible educational experience."