



Discover nature. Learn outdoors.

MEDIA RELEASE IMMEDIATE

NOVEMBER 2nd 2017

KINGSWOOD TRUST GETS TOP MARKS FOR EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Kingswood Trust set in the beautiful countryside on the borders of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire and Shropshire has shown itself to be at the top of the class for educational visits by being awarded a Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge. It offers a range of opportunities to visit for the day or to stay overnight, connecting people with nature and providing exciting opportunities to learn outdoors.

Awarded by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC), the LOtC Quality Badge combines for the first time learning and safety into one easily recognisable badge for all organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences.

Rachel Wells, Charity Manager said "Being awarded the LOtC Quality Badge is well deserved recognition for all our staff, trustees and volunteers as it demonstrates that we offer young people the type of high quality learning experiences that enhance children's learning, health and wellbeing. Schools and families can be reassured that their children are in safe hands. We're delighted to receive this award for our Centre and we look forward to welcoming even more children and young people from the local area to benefit from all that the great outdoors offers."

The LOtC Quality Badge was launched in 2009 as part of the Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto, a national initiative to ensure young people are given more opportunities to have these experiences as part of the curriculum. The LOtC Quality Badge is awarded by CLOtC, the national voice for Learning Outside the Classroom. CLOtC also provides free online guidance and information for teachers on how to plan and organise high quality activities. The LOtC Quality Badge is designed to make it easier for teachers to identify providers of quality educational visits. Organisations will display the LOtC Quality

Badge as a signal to schools that their venue has met required standards, so teachers do not need to carry out their own risk or quality assessments.

There are two routes to the LOtC Quality Badge. Route 1 is for organisations offering activities that are considered relatively low risk and activities that take place wholly in controlled areas used by the public, such as museums, galleries, places of worship and zoos. Route 2 is for organisations providing activities that require a degree of technical knowledge and experience beyond the lay person. For example, adventurous activities such as rock climbing and river and coastal fieldwork, where young people enter the water to make measurements.

Providers looking to gain the LOtC Quality Badge will need to meet a set of six quality indicators and will be supported through a developmental process by a package of on-line support materials, which will include guidance, good practice exemplars, downloadable templates and training materials.

Elaine Skates, Chief Executive of CLOtC said:

“Educational visits are among the most memorable experiences in a child’s school life. The LOtC Quality Badge offers teachers a guarantee that not only is a venue providing the sort of educational value that they can build on in class long after the visit but they also have the appropriate risk management structures in place.

Learning outside the classroom has many proven educational benefits. The LOtC Quality Badge will reduce red tape and provide assurance for schools, thereby ensuring that many more young people have memorable, exciting and valuable learning outside the classroom experiences. I congratulate Kingswood Trust on being awarded the LOtC Quality Badge.”

The LOtC Quality Badge is available to large and small organisations providing quality learning outside the classroom experiences and managing risk effectively. Almost 1,000 organisations currently hold the LOtC Quality Badge, including museums, adventurous activity and field study centres, places of worship, art galleries, visitor attractions, student travel companies and farms.

For more information about the Learning Outside the Classroom Quality Badge, please visit www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk

Notes to Editors

A photo accompanies this press release showing Natasha Madeley Age 8, from Codsall, Hannah Charman and Jacob Harvey Age 3, from Perton and Jakub Cychowski Age 14, with Aldona Pienkosz from Wolverhampton enjoying nature collecting at Kingswood Trust.

A copy of our social accounts is attached which provide a snapshot of the impact that Kingswood Trust has on all its beneficiaries and how we are performing against our mission and charitable objects.

For more information about The Kingswood Trust visit the www.discover-kingswood.org.uk website.

To arrange interviews or filming opportunities please contact: Helen Heywood / Rachel Wells at rachel.wells@wolverhampton.gov.uk or by phone on 01902 558132.

The Learning Outside the Classroom Manifesto was launched in November 2006, making eight specific pledges to expand access to educational opportunities outside the classroom for all 0 to 19 year olds.

The **LOtC Quality Badge** brings together a number of existing schemes that cover safety primarily; puts the emphasis on the quality of teaching and learning provided (of which risk management is a part); and offers a quality standard for sectors that hitherto have not had a scheme at all (e.g. museums and galleries, field study centres). The first Quality Badges were awarded in January 2009, with the Council for the Learning Outside the Classroom (CLOtC) acting as the awarding body. Organisations can register online at: www.lotcqualitybadge.org.uk.

The LOtC Quality Badge is available to all organisations providing learning outside the classroom experiences. There are two routes to the LOtC Quality Badge – the route an organisation takes to achieve the LOtC Quality Badge will be determined by the degree of risk management required to manage the activities offered.

Route 1 is for those organisations whose activities are considered relatively low-risk, such as environmental centres, art galleries, museums, visitor attractions and places of worship. Organisations applying through Route 1 will need to complete an online Self Evaluation Form to demonstrate that they have met a set of quality indicators. A sample of organisations will receive a quality assurance visit from a LOtC Quality Badge assessor.

Route 2 is for those organisations whose activities require a degree of technical knowledge and experience that are beyond the lay person, such as ensuring children are operating safely on a high ropes course, around livestock and farming equipment, or when entering rivers to make measurements. Residential and overseas visits are also included in Route 2, due to the unique risk management issues they present to teachers.

Quality Badge awarded by

