



## Making the most of school trips

School trips are widely considered an invaluable aspect of school life, giving pupils the chance to experience the reality of what they normally only learn about in the classroom. The benefits of school outings far outweigh the risks, but safety must be a priority to establish peace of mind for both parents and teachers.

Leading examination body OCR has developed a qualification for training and assessment in Off-site Safety Management (OSM). This qualification, aimed at teachers and other adults who take students out of their normal school environment, prepares them for the organisation and safety aspects of school trips. A key part of the certificate is the critical planning element; it teaches participants how to carry out detailed risk assessments and put in place emergency contingency plans. The qualification gives an overview of everything involved with an off-site visit – from organisation to staffing, legal requirements, and finance – and the application of these planning principles to a variety of different situations. The course itself typically takes place over two fairly intensive days.

Lea Green Centre has been recognised by OCR for the quality of its work with young people and has been registered as an OCR registered organisation running the OSM course as well as being an examination centre. This follows a successful pilot project launched by Lea Green with support from the Royal Geographical Society.

In 2005/06 Lea Green will be running a number of both midweek and weekend courses for teachers and youth Workers, this will compliment the range of outdoor team building and first-aid courses for staff Lea Green already provide. To find out more about the Off-site Safety course or other courses at Lea Green please contact Samantha Wood, administrator at Lea Green Tel: 01629 534561 or e-mail [Samantha.wood@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Samantha.wood@derbyshire.gov.uk)