

## Get Out More Awards Outline

### INTRODUCTION

The 'Get Out More' [Growing Schools Merit Awards for Outdoor Learning] scheme is an exciting development intended to encourage young people to make greater use and gain understanding of the outdoor environment. The scheme seeks to support, encourage and accredit their efforts and achievements in:

- Fieldwork and the use of the 'outdoor classroom'
- Off-site and residential activities
- Outdoor and adventurous activities
- Education for sustainable development, and Global Education
- Key skills, personal and social development

This is being developed as a potential North East regional scheme, an evolution from similar successful schemes in both Nottinghamshire and Hampshire, but substantially revised to reflect our own regional circumstances. It is aimed at children in both Primary and Secondary education.

**The scheme is designed to encourage 3 Key Learning Experiences in the outdoors :**

- **Discovering:** by taking part in activities with an enquiry- based approach to understanding the environment and environmental issues
- **Exploring:** by taking part in fun, challenging and adventurous activity
- **Caring:** by taking part in awareness-raising projects aimed at improving or maintaining the environment

'Get Out More' *complements* other schemes (eg. Healthy Schools, Eco Schools, Duke of Edinburgh's Award) and is not designed to replace them. It fits well into existing planning, credit or reward systems, as well as 'Pupil Profile' or pupil referral schemes, and supports the National Curriculum. It is equally suitable for disabled young people, and from Nursery to the end of KS4.

'Get Out More' is being supported and coordinated by Durham County Council through the EWE (Esh Winning Eco-Learning) Centre, which will arrange Teacher Training Days, produce resources and secure funds for the project. The EWE Centre will also take a lead in developing the scheme on a regional basis, developing regional partnerships. They will ensure that the 'Get Out More' scheme remains in line with current best practice, and is widely acknowledged across Durham County Council and the North East Region.

**What does our school or organisation need to take part?**

- A member of staff or an interested parent/helper to act as the **School Coordinator**
- A willingness by the school to continue existing opportunities and **consider new opportunities for outdoor learning**
- **Young people who are willing to rise to the challenge and 'Get Out More'.**