

March 2018

# Going Places

The offsite and adventurous activities newsletter



Going Places is a newsletter for all those using the Bracknell Forest Council (BFC) offsite visits database. The system is now used comprehensively by schools, the youth service, children's centres and children's social care.

## Changes to Duke of Edinburgh Award (DofE)

As of 1 April 2018, Bracknell Forest Youth Service will NOT be renewing the DofE License and the Youth Service will no longer deliver DofE in any capacity.

Historically BFC schools delivering DofE had the opportunity to operate under the Licence held by the Youth Service; with the changes any school/ academy that wishes to offer the Duke of Edinburgh's Award at any level to its pupils MUST become a Directly Licenced Centre (DLC), and the Council is now unable to provide this on behalf of schools.

To become a DLC, schools/ academies need to liaise directly with DofE South East Regional Office. (SERO) [southeast@dofe.org](mailto:southeast@dofe.org). Schools/ academies which become DLC's MUST liaise with DofE SERO to agree the procedures to ensure the 20 conditions of DofE Expeditions are met. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition Guide 13<sup>th</sup> Edition has the most up to date guidance from the DofE relating to delivery of expeditions.

The BFC Requirements for Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions on Foot document has therefore been removed from the Offsite & Adventurous Activities Guidance, as this specifically detailed the Licensed Organisations requirements and expedition approval procedures while the Youth Service were the Licence holder. The Offsite & Adventurous Activities Guidance has been updated to reflect this.



The Guidance also informs the procedure regarding safety and wellbeing for staff and pupils on expeditions. The expectations of staff qualification and experience level are detailed in section 7:0 of the guidance while Section 8:0 informs staff ratios. This information is summarised in the Activity sheets for each level of DofE expedition.

Any DLC school / academy using an Approved Activity Provider (AAP) to deliver any aspect of expedition MUST check that AAP staffs leading have appropriate qualifications, experience and insurance.

## Heighten Security

You will be aware that the current threat level from international terrorism in the UK is SEVERE. (See MI5 website at [www.MI5.GOV.UK](http://www.MI5.GOV.UK))

A risk assessment based on the Police 'Run, Hide, Tell' advice has been formulated for group leaders and which should be used when travelling to London and also to other areas of potential high risk whether at home or abroad. The risk assessment can be found on <http://schools.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/policies-guidance/offsite-adventurous-activities-guidance> under Forms.

### **Trampoline Parks**

I would like to draw your attention to an interesting article regarding jump parks such as Gravity Force on [www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39266683](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-39266683) and Brian Mallett's report below.

#### Gravity Force - Brian Mallett, OVA.

I visited Gravity Force on Friday 11 December 2015 and I have a number of issues with the organisation which are as follows:

On arrival groups are registered and have to sign a waiver which seems to effectively absolve GF of any responsibility for any accidents or injuries however caused.

Groups then enter the safety briefing area where they are shown a 10 minute safety video and a few verbal instructions. This lasts in total a maximum of 12 - 15 minutes.

Groups are then allowed into the trampoline halls to use the various areas in "free bouncing" and other "free activities."

Participants are issued with grip socks but there are no rules governing what else they may wear.



#### Supervision

The question of qualification is a grey area. There is no affiliation to any GB national governing body for trampolining such as British Gymnastics and instructor qualification would appear to be at three levels which is based on an in house system.

ALL LEVELS ARE SUPERVISORY ONLY THERE IS NO TEACHING OR INSTRUCTION GIVEN OTHER THAN TO MAINTAIN A FORM OF DISCIPLINE.

#### Base level

These are supervisors with no formal qualifications other than that they have gone through an in house training programme. Their function is to maintain safety on the trampolines as per the safety video.

#### Instructor level

This is the next tier but only seems to have an added responsibility of being in charge of the base level supervisors.

#### Management level

This is the level that undertakes the "in house training" which seems to be only aimed at supervision. No teaching of skills involved. The question is also "who trains the trainers" ?

There is no instruction given in performing or progressing through "skills". Participants are left to develop skills themselves and have to be self disciplined in not attempting any tricks which are beyond their skill level but it is not sure how they know what that is without direct supervision and teaching.

Although it is perceived that there are can be definite benefits to health and fitness and also skill development if the supervision involved teaching and close control this is not evident unless participants are booked into a set fitness programme class.

There are inherent risks in participating in "free bouncing" where performance and the observance of rules is the participant's responsibility.

There are rules governing "double bouncing", migration by bouncing from one trampoline to another and size segregation where small children are segregated from larger children to avoid possible injuries sustained through collisions. However, while there were a number of occasions when this occurred without any intervention from the trampoline marshals.

As a result it my view that the Authority and the school would be putting themselves at unnecessary risk in participating in this activity unless:

1. the supervising school or centre staff have a trampoline qualification,
2. that the pupils are controlled on a set number of trampolines in close proximity to one another
3. that appropriate sports clothing is worn

### **Approval Times**

The following should be used as a guide as to when details of forthcoming visits should be entered onto the online system:

<b>TYPE OF VISIT</b>	<b>NOTICE PERIOD</b>
Visit to Youth Club or other facility	7 working days
Adventurous Activity	14 working days
Residential Activity	One month
Activities Abroad	Six months
Exchanges (six months - year)	Six months

Recently visits have been rejected by the OVA because they have been submitted too late many being submitted on the day before a visit. Once the OVA has approved a visit it is notified to the CYPL Emergency Duty contact who covers any out of hours incidents.

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<http://schools.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/policies-guidance/offsite-adventurous-activities-guidance>