

## Mythbusting - The Health and Safety Executive statement

In June 2011 the HSE released a statement to dispel common misconceptions about Health and Safety and school trips. It highlights 4 key messages;

- 1. *'Well-managed school trips and outdoor activities are great for children. Children won't learn about risk if they're wrapped in cotton wool.'***
- 2. *'Teachers should expect their schools to have procedures that encourage participation, are proportionate to the level of risk and avoid bureaucracy.'***
- 3. *'Those running school trips need to focus on the risks and the benefits to people – not the paperwork.'***
- 4. *'Accidents and mistakes may happen on school trips – but fear of prosecution has been blown out of all proportion.'***

Read the full document here on the hse website here:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/services/education/school-trips.pdf>

The Department for Education have also released a new 8 page guidance document which covers all aspects of Health and Safety and outdoor visits (replacing HASPEV). It is much shorter because it strips out a level of central guidance and shifts emphasis to key employer guidance. The document can be viewed through the link below.

<http://media.education.gov.uk/assets/files/pdf/d/departmental%20advice%20on%20health%20and%20safety%20for%20schools.pdf>