

Schools Partnerships

Teaching opportunities for key stages 3 and 4



REASSESSING

RISK

QUARRY
PRODUCTS
ASSOCIATION



Motorcycling is a particular problem

Citizenship education equips young people with the knowledge, understanding and skills to play an active part in society as informed citizens who are socially and morally responsible. It gives them the confidence and conviction that they can act with others and make a difference in their communities.



Substantial fences are broken down

The Quarry Products Association (QPA) is keen to promote opportunities for secondary schools to work with its members at local level. It does so as part of its general community programme but also because it is anxious to raise awareness amongst teenagers in particular of the dangers of "hanging out" in quarries. This leaflet has been produced to promote the help that is available from the industry in key stage 3 and 4 citizenship. It may have come to you from a quarrying company worried about dangers to teenagers in your area.

Quarrying and the curriculum

Few industries have more potential to contribute to the National Curriculum than quarrying. The nature of its operations – and the fact that they exist in most communities right across the UK – means that it can offer a living classroom for geography and science in particular.

But its safety challenges mean that quarrying is also especially relevant to the relatively new topic of citizenship, which schools are required to teach as part of the framework for Personal, Social and Health Education for key stages 3 and 4.

At key stage 3, social safety becomes significant. Students are encouraged to take an active role in making their communities safer and mentoring younger pupils. A key stage 3 citizenship unit, *Crime and Safety Awareness*, gives students the responsibility for planning and organising a one-day event for either the whole school or a year group. They attend a series of workshops run by relevant local agencies and so investigate the nature and consequences of criminal and anti-social behaviour. They are also encouraged to develop a youth action group to identify issues, develop solutions and take action on matters that concern them, such as supporting younger pupils in developing initiatives that contribute to community safety.

Quarrying companies in your area will be happy to help you bring local relevance to this curriculum requirement.

Project opportunities

QPA is keen to develop close relationships with schools in areas where teenage safety is a particular concern for its members. Determined to make an impression on an increasingly worrying issue, QPA completed an 18-month research pilot project, working closely with four schools in key quarrying regions. Each school was partnered by at least one local quarrying company.

The challenge posed to each school was to communicate the safety message to a broad cross-section of pupils, using whatever media they preferred. Emphasis was placed on asking the youngsters to come up with their own solutions and to drive the projects. The output from each school is summarised here and on a supporting DVD.

Please contact your local quarrying company or QPA if you would like to pursue a similar project.

PROJECT CASE STUDIES OVERLEAF



Pupils trial the *Mature Thinking* programme

Mature Thinking

Mature Thinking is a potentially life-changing programme - a practical, creative and enjoyable experience for key stage 3 and 4 students and staff. It has been designed to assist participants to make mature decisions generally, including towards taking risks in quarries. It can dynamically affect pupils' performance, not just at school but in life by providing activities that help them to reflect, review and take action. The programme is deliberately structured to bring in an element of risk-taking in a safe and structured way.

The programme has been devised for QPA by Roy Leighton. Roy is one of the UK's leading learning experts. He has been instrumental in developing and delivering enterprise programmes for the whole school community as part of the Government's *Enterprise Advisors* initiative. Roy runs leadership programmes with national and international companies, and also jointly devised the highly successful BBC series *The Confidence Lab*. A publisher and author, his latest collaborative work, *The Big Book of Independent Thinking*, is due out during 2006.

Projects your school could pursue



Research session at the local quarry



Pupils work closely with quarry companies



The problem at its worst

Advertising campaign

Tividale Community Arts College at Oldbury in the West Midlands set up a project team of six students, each of whom was given a specific creative role. The team developed a highly imaginative advertising campaign consisting of computer animation, graphic design and photography using a contemporary 'pop art' style. The work was undertaken in a three-day intensive workshop. The team visited its local quarry to research the project, took photos and then commissioned community arts specialists to help turn their still images into a powerful quarry safety animation. The team also produced a series of promotional postcards.



Animating a graphic

"The students learned several key skills from participation in the project, including team working, leadership, graphic design and creativity. They worked within the curriculum, communicated vividly with their peers and built a positive relationship with our industry partners."

Louise Blount, deputy head



Emergency services contribute to a video

Video production

Serlby Park School at Retford, Nottinghamshire, is close to several operational and disused quarries. The QPA challenge was handed to a team of 12 drama students.

After visiting a nearby quarry for a briefing and familiarisation, the team decided to produce a fly-on-the-wall drama documentary exploring the dangers of quarry trespass.

The team sought the assistance of their local fire service to film a dramatic reconstruction of a quarry rescue.

"As a school located in such a busy quarrying area, it was vital for us to address these safety risks. This project allowed the students to better understand the dangers of trespassing in quarries and to communicate these to the younger children at the school."

Catherine Hoyle, head of drama



Water can be deeper than you think



Fences and signs are often not enough



Project planning visit



Working as a team

Radio station

Frome Community College in

Somerset tied the quarry safety message into the launch of Frome FM – a short-term

community radio station with a potential audience of 120,000 listeners. Following research and consultation with their industry partners, the project team drew up a strategy focusing on a current affairs programme, a radio 'soap' drama featuring a quarry accident, and a series of subliminal public safety jingles.



"The students learnt a wide range of important skills, including teamwork, working to deadlines and communicating a message through the media. But the most heartening outcome was the extent to which our evaluation revealed that awareness of the key safety messages had been taken on board by our teenage audience."

Mike Walker, director of media arts

Broadly based projects

Anthony Gell School at Wirksworth in Derbyshire, is at the heart of a major quarrying area which includes a string of disused sites. The project team of 32 pupils visited several quarries to research the issues, take photographs and gather information. They also conducted a survey of their peers to understand young people's attitudes and



Spreading the word through the media

attraction to quarries. The students were given complete creative control and were divided into six working groups, charged with a diverse range of projects including: designing and commissioning a sculpture constructed from quarry products; researching and producing a safety magazine and accompanying website; and scripting and shooting a video discussing the key safety issues of trespassing in quarries. The team also investigated a range of ways to redevelop a disused quarry to make it safer for future generations.

"The students have responded well to the way that Roy has approached the issue of both quarry safety and thinking about how they learn. Saying "you must not do that" is too simplistic a way of dealing with a problem like this. More imaginative and engaging methods have a much better chance of succeeding."

Brigid Farnan, learning mentor, talking about the *Mature Thinking* programme devised by Roy Leighton (see overleaf).



Other curriculum opportunities

The QPA's general educational materials now live at the Virtual Quarry (www.virtualquarry.co.uk). The site carries a range of key stage 3 and 4 lesson plans in geography, science and citizenship.



Providing Essential Materials for Britain

The trade association for the aggregate, asphalt and ready-mixed concrete industries

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