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Outdoor Education for the Future

Chris Loynes

EOE Network

University of Cumbria
An Agent of Social Change

A history of addressing social issues:

- Moral decline
- Raising aspiration
- Marginalisation
- Powerlessness
- Wellbeing
Outdoor Education

• Diversionary
• Restorative
• Developmental
• Transformative

Self

• Community
• Friendship
• Service

Others

Environment

• For
• In
• About
A Different Pedagogy

• Instead of:
  – Abstract skills and knowledge
  – Passive students
  – Intellectual focus

• There is:
  – Real and engaged experiences
  – Whole person immersion
  – Collaborative and discovery based learning
It’s not about the activities

- Institutional need
  - Reduce truancy
- Student need
  - Better and more relevant ways of learning
- Your interests
  - Passions for sailing, climbing, etc
- local opportunities
  - What can I do within 15 minutes
- Social need
  - Skilled workers
The essential ingredients

- Appropriate activities
- Real world
- Inclusive
- Informal/relational
- Student led
- Progressive
- Integrated
The transformation

- Trust
- Confidence
- Engagement
- Attendance
- Academic results
We still need agents of change

Social issues
- Shifts of power and wealth
- Consumerism
- Individualism
- Decline in economic growth

Environmental issues
- Climate change and biodiversity loss
- Resource depletion
- Food, water and energy security
Transformative Outdoor Education

- What are the needs of your students?
- What passions, skills and knowledge do you have to offer?
- What possibilities are there in your area?
- What are the needs of your community?
Links

[EOE Network]
www.eoe-network.eu

[University of Cumbria]
www.cumbria.ac.uk/outdoorstudies
Tolerance
Resourcefulness
New Idea of 'quality of life'
Interdependence: part of ecological community
Building Community: Local and global
Self
Others
Environment