



9th March 2018

Dear All Students

Re; FSA Endorsement Scheme and PDT Training and Education

I wanted to make you aware of recent events that have come to light and clarify the standing of PDT Training and Education's level of training and how this affects you in regards to the FSA and your Agored Forest School qualification.

The Forest School Association is a self-appointed membership organisation not a governing body, constitutionally they are no different to any other charity, they are also a company limited by guarantee and are directed by a board of trustees/directors, they are not a government organisation nor are they endorsed by anyone other than themselves.

The Forest School Association have a scheme available to recognise practitioners; 'FSA Recognised Forest School Provider scheme' which is additional to the ordinary FS membership, in summary, for a fee and annual renewal cost, this gives you a badge and an icon on their map. The Forest School Association in January 2018 released a statement, which in short, states that anyone with the Agored Forest School Certificate who is certificated post 1.12.18 will not be able to be part of that scheme. They have decided they are limiting the certificates they endorse to those which are part of the West Midlands NOCN units at 18 credits.

PDT Training and Education and its trainers in their own right have always been part of the Outdoor Learning Training Network for Wales which is a branch of the GB Network. This network is the key holder to the units and monitors the trainers who have access to them and ensures quality is maintained at a high level. We are a registered centre for Agored Cymru and use their suite of qualifications which the network developed from the original units in 2015.

The qualification/training you have or will be doing with us is a 'Certificate'. In the UK, as standard, anything from 13-21 is a certificate. When our units were revised in 2015 the qualification was taken from 18 credits to 14. This reduction in credits was purely to bring the qualification in line with other Agored certificates and this does reflect any reduction in quality / value of the certificate or the training.

As it happens the course content we deliver is the same as the one we were delivering before the units changed in 2015. The FSA, in their statement, state concerns about the guided learning hours of the Agored course however ours exceeds that required for the Agored course and is in line with the course the FSA will endorse.

What this means for PDT Training and Education students;

- Future courses we run from this point forward will not have their qualification recognised by the FSA scheme.
- Students who have already attended the course and would like to be part of this scheme must submit their file for marking no later than August 2018 for all courses apart from L30218 who have until October. When you submit make it clear that your file is to be pushed through before the 1.12.18 certification cut off.

Please remember this only applies to the FSA approved member scheme and

- Does not prevent you from becoming a member of the FSA itself
- Does not mean you are less Qualified than someone with the NOCN Certificate or have received any lower quality training (we provide an additional observation assessment which other training providers in England do not)
- Has no bearing on you obtaining insurance

This Agored suit of Outdoor learning qualifications also allows you to add on additional credits such as Coastal School Practitioner.