



The RT Hon Gavin Williamson CBE MP
Department for Education
20 Great Smith Street
London
SW1P 3BT

12 July 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

Countryside Code resource packs

Last year I wrote to you about the need to add the Countryside Code to the national curriculum, so that the next generation can enjoy the countryside safely and responsibly. Landowners across the country often go to great lengths to welcome the public to rural areas, encouraging them to not just enjoy the scenery, but to benefit from the numerous health and wellbeing impacts of a long walk surrounded by nature.

In many ways, COVID-19 has been a catalyst for change, with many more people seeking to explore the countryside. This is a good thing. Unfortunately, however, a lack of knowledge of how to enjoy the countryside has resulted in many accidents, as well as the death of livestock animals from dog attacks, wildfires, crop damage and high volumes of litter. It is clear that action is necessary not just to refresh the Countryside Code – as Natural England has recently done – but to actively teach children its message.

Now, the Country Land and Business Association (CLA), which represents 28,000 members who own or operate rural land and businesses in England and Wales, has partnered with LEAF Education to produce resource packs on the Countryside Code for teachers and group leaders of Key Stage 2 pupils.

The Code's message of respecting everyone, protecting the environment and enjoying the outdoors are highlighted in these packs through a list of fun-filled activities and lesson plans. The resources packs can be [found here](#), but we would welcome the opportunity to discuss these resources with your department.

I hope that you will agree to seize this opportunity to promote an ethos of respect for and enjoyment of the countryside in schools. It will heighten awareness of the role that nature plays in children's health, wellbeing and attainment.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Mark Bridgeman'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the 'n'.

Mark Bridgeman
CLA President