

Decision making and peer pressure

NOTES FOR TEACHERS



Providing children with the skills to make their own decisions and take responsibility for their own actions is an important element of the Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and citizenship curriculum.

Determining how to spend their playtime, finding enjoyment with friends while avoiding danger, is one of the fundamental decisions facing children most days. Implicit in this is the need to interact with friends and, when necessary, to resist peer pressure.

Quarries are places where many children are tempted to play but where they can place themselves in serious danger. Deep water, quicksands, sheer drops, falling rocks and heavy machinery are some of the obvious hazards. The Mineral Products Association, which represents the great majority of UK quarries, is anxious to raise awareness amongst the eight to 11 age group and hopes they will carry the message with them into their teens. It is keen to work with teachers and has provided this resource sheet as a basis. Many quarry managers will be only too happy to come to schools, to work with teachers on wider mini projects and to host organised trips to their sites. There is also a *Play Safe ... Stay Safe* video, which is a key element of this resource.

This resource sheet will take you step-by-step through a mini-project, designed to incorporate different activities to

help children learn more about quarries and their potential dangers. In particular, it will focus on the problem of peer pressure, an issue that is difficult to tackle with children, but an experience familiar to many of them. Supplementary resources are included which can be photocopied for use in the classroom with the activities.

Resources

You should have the following resources in your pack, all of which can be photocopied as required:

- A sheet of "True or False" statements that needs to be cut up
- A "Making Decisions" sheet
- A "Scenarios" sheet with role-play ideas.

Each activity assumes children have watched the *Play Safe ... Stay Safe* video or else have a prior knowledge of quarrying activity.