



White Hall

Outdoor Education centre



Parental Information and Consent Form

Our Vision:

Every child and young person in Derbyshire should be given the opportunity to experience outdoor education and activities as an integral part of their learning and development.

The Centre:

White Hall is Derbyshire's leading outdoor education and adventure activity centre. The Centre consists of a large 19th century house set in its own 35 acres of grounds and fields.

Situated in a beautiful location, close to Buxton, in the Peak District National Park, White Hall has given thousands of people unforgettable learning experiences since it opened in 1951 as Britain's first Local Education Authority Outdoor Centre.

White Hall is ideally located to deliver a huge range of educational, challenging and adventure activities.

We provide residential and day courses for young people and adults involving a wide range of development activities and opportunities through outdoor adventure. All activities share the common theme – personal and social development and the chance to have fun!

Courses at White Hall Centre:

Each programme is tailored specifically to the group to deliver a combination of adventure, learning, challenge, fun, exercise and enjoyment.

The programme may involve a range of adventurous activities including, stream scrambling, climbing, hill walks, abseiling, rock scrambling, kayaking and canoeing, high and low ropes courses, orienteering, caving, problem solving, night walks and wide games. During these activity sessions, White Hall staff will be responsible for the supervision and safety of the group with visiting staff supporting them with responsibility for discipline and pastoral supervision of students.

Living together at White Hall is part of the challenge – young people share their time together, working as part of a team and gaining a better understanding and an appreciation of others. For many young people, staying at White Hall is their first or one of their first residential opportunities and is a chance to promote the development of self-confidence, responsibility, positive relationships with others and independence.

It is normal practice for young people to have some free and social time whilst undertaking a residential stay; this promotes the building of relationships and provides opportunity for them to develop responsibility and life skills which are a major reason why schools undertake learning outside of the classroom. During free time group members have access to rooms with pool tables and table tennis, and to the grounds of White Hall where there is an area to socialise, play football, basketball and volleyball.



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The visiting staff have a responsibility for the supervision of young people during free time. Many schools/groups do not directly supervise their children during this time, allowing them a little independence, an invaluable part of the residential. They are still supervised and are given guidance on expected behaviour and the location of staff. Your school will decide an appropriate level of supervision for these times.

Staff and volunteers accompanying groups have a responsibility to supervise young people throughout their stay. A duty member of staff is available in case of emergencies.

Safety at White Hall Centre:

White Hall has full risk assessments for all aspects of the centre. All Outdoor Adventurous Activities are supervised by highly skilled and nationally qualified White Hall staff. Activities are introduced at an appropriate level, at carefully chosen sites, using all necessary safety equipment, which is provided by the Centre. White Hall conforms fully to the requirements of the 'Adventure Activities Licensing Authority' and are licensed by them. However, adventure activities, by their nature, involve an element of risk, which cannot be totally eliminated. Having said that, White Hall has an excellent safety record.

If you have any concerns please contact the school/organisation planning the visit or White Hall Centre and we will be happy to provide you with further information.

To help us in regard to safety, there are a few rules for young people, stressing the need for responsible behaviour. Young people should be sensible, listen to group briefings and follow instructions from centre and accompanying staff.

The County Council does reserve the right to exclude young people who behave inappropriately or who are a risk to themselves or to others whilst at White Hall. Young people bringing alcohol or drugs to White Hall will be removed from the course.

Personal belongings:

Participants are provided with a recommended kit list. Please make sure that all personal belongings are clearly marked with the participant's name. It is not advisable to bring valuable items. Any items brought to the Centre will be held at the individual's own risk and the centre will not be held responsible should they be lost or damaged. The use of mobile phones is prohibited when taking part in activities and we advise that they are not brought to the centre in case they are lost or damaged.

Accommodation:

Young people are accommodated in dormitory style rooms of 4 to 12 people, which are in separate areas for male and females. Bedrooms and changing rooms are regarded as private areas to be accessed only by those who have been allocated those rooms. Cameras or mobile phones are not allowed to be used in these areas.

White Hall is a secure site with no access to the house after the duty member of staff has completed lock-up.

There will be a White Hall member of staff on duty, who will sleep at the centre to be on call in case of any problems.

Visitors to White Hall must register at reception and are issued visitor badges.



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Medical Information and medication:

Please ensure that the attached consent form is completed and returned to the organising school/youth group as appropriate.

All medication will need to have specific consent from you. Medication should be clearly labelled with the young person's name and the required dosage. For the majority of programmes or courses, school or visiting staff will control the handling and issuing of medication for young people. The school/organisation will liaise with White Hall staff as appropriate.

Please ensure that the school or visiting organisation is informed about any allergies or dietary requirements that the young person may have. Please contact us if you are unsure or need to discuss a dietary or medical condition.

Young people at White Hall do undertake activities in or near lakes and streams - Leptospirosis (Weil's disease) is a rare but endemic waterborne disease in Great Britain and there is therefore a small risk of infection from contact with water. Should a young person who has attended a course at White Hall develop flu or fever like symptoms, we advise consulting your doctor and informing them that your son/daughter has had contact with inland lake and stream water.

Ticks are found in the countryside. In some parts of the UK they are known to carry Lyme's disease, but as of yet, not in the Peak District – but it is always sensible to be aware.

The most common symptom is a red skin rash that looks like a bullseye on a dartboard. If the rash or flu like symptoms occur – usually up to 30 days after the bite, or you discover a tick please consult your GP.

Contacting White Hall:

Address: White Hall Outdoor Education Centre
Long Hill
Buxton
Derbyshire
SK17 6SX

Telephone: Main office - 01298 23260
Duty instructor's phone - 07900617222

e-mail: white.hall@derbyshire.gov.uk

A payphone is available for visitors/residents use (01298 23893) - many groups discourage young people from phoning home whilst on residential.

Further information about White Hall including directions are available at:

www.whitehallcentre.com

Please detach and keep this information sheet.

Complete and return the attached consent form to the school or group organiser.