



White Hall
Outdoor Education centre



Parents' Evening and Information for a White Hall Visit

Notes of information to share with parents and to help you plan your parents' evening. These also contain a lot of relevant information to share with students.

Below we've outlined some areas to help parents prepare children for their visit to White Hall.

White Hall is a place for people to have new experiences, have fun, to feel challenged and overcome fears. It is somewhere they have to think, help each other and make decisions. These are all skills and experiences that will help them at school, home and in their life.

White Hall Expectations:

We want everyone to have a great time while they are at White Hall. The following will help everyone have a safe, fun time. To help ensure the wellbeing of all course members please can you share the following.

We expect course members to:

- Be kind and respectful to each other
- Be friendly and care for each other
- Look after other people's property
- Keep the centre clean and tidy
- Listen to and follow instructions
- Try your hardest at everything you do
- Act in a sensible and safe manner at all times
- Move round the building by walking
- Don't go into restricted areas e.g. ropes course, pond area, cave
- Outside area to play on in 'free' time is the lawn area, please don't go into the woods or down the drive
- Only go into your own dormitory and don't disturb other ones
- Abide by the quiet rule after lights out.
- Although the "midnight feast" has possibly been a long standing tradition of residential, please can you ensure that students do not bring food for consumption in dormitories to avoid risk to people with severe allergies who are staying at the centre.

Supervision:

- White Hall staff will be responsible for leading the activities and safety of the young people and staff while on activities.
- School staff have responsibility for discipline and general supervision of students at all times.
- 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 the children to develop responsibility and life skills which are a major reason why schools undertake learning outside of the classroom. The visiting staff have a responsibility for the supervision of young people during free time. Many schools 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, but both parents and young people should be made aware of this 'non-direct' supervision.
- 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.

Activities and Daily Routine:

- The activities which your group will be participating in are shown on the course programme that you will receive prior to your visit. This also gives an outline of the daily routine. We may have to make changes to the programme for safety reasons, because of weather conditions or the needs of a group. This does mean that each group might not do exactly the same activities during their stay.
- We have a fire alarm practice on the first day.

Equipment:

We provide a kit list which you will receive prior to your visit. This covers what is needed during their stay:

- Plenty of warm layers, hat and gloves in colder weather
- Denims are fine for indoors but not for activities as they are not efficient at retaining body heat
- Please let the students help pack their own bags so they know what they have with them. It also helps when they are packing their bags at the end of the course
- It is always better to have too much than not enough.
- In warm weather sun cream, sun hat and insect repellent
- Clothing that they do not mind getting muddy and wet
- We supply waterproof coats and trousers; they can bring their own but don't go and buy any especially for the trip

- It is important to have enough shoes to cover indoors and the different activities – wellingtons, old trainers (if canoeing/kayaking), trainers for use outdoors and a pair of shoes/slippers only for indoor use – these need to have a proper sole i.e. not slipper socks.
- We supply walking boots – they can bring their own if they want but don't go out and buy any especially for the trip. It will help if children can tie their own laces.
- Most of the activities are outside, so warm layers are really important to help students enjoy the experience.
- Bring a bin bag to put dirty clothing in
- All specialist and safety equipment is provided
- Items should be named as we can end up with a lot of 'lost property' and we would like to be able to reunite children with everything they came with!
- It is important that students do not bring items of value or electrical equipment such as mp3 players, hair straighteners, hair dryers, gaming devices etc. We also discourage students from bringing their mobile phones with them.

Tuck shop:

- You may want to set a limit on the amount they can bring – there are some sweets and a small selection of souvenirs. Bringing change is really helpful.

Accommodation:

- All the accommodation is located in the main house.
- The overnight duty instructor from White Hall sleeps in the annexe and is on call in the case of emergencies.
- The dormitories range in size from 4 beds to 12 beds.
- Students have shared toilets and washroom facilities, although some rooms have their own washbasins.
- Showers are situated downstairs and comprise 2 separate shower blocks; one for females and one for males – each block has 6 individual shower cubicles.
- The boys' and girls' bedrooms are separated by fire doors which are locked, but open automatically if the fire alarm goes off.
- We will ask students to unpack and make their beds on arrival. It really helps them if they have had some practise at making a bed; putting on a sheet, pillow case and duvet cover.
- Their bedroom/dormitory is just for them and the other people who sleep in there. We ask them not to go into other people's rooms or invite anyone into theirs.
- There are lights kept on in the hallways if the children need to use the toilet in the middle of the night.
- There are plenty of places downstairs where they can meet with their friends.
- There are 2 sets of stairs; one for girls and one for boys.
- We expect the rooms to be kept clean and tidy to allow access at all times and also so the children have some idea of where their stuff is!

- Staff bedrooms are located throughout the main house.
- Downstairs we have a couple of rooms with pool tables, table tennis and table football. It is expected that they share the games and act sensibly.
- There is also the lounge for sitting and chatting.
- Outside we have a large area of grass where they can socialise, play, and some football and volleyball nets. There are ropes courses and problem solving activities in the grounds – they are not allowed on those without a member of White Hall staff.

Meal Times:

- There are 3 meal times – breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- Encourage them to try new food.
- Breakfast is cereals, toast, fruit juice and a cooked option.
- Lunch is a buffet style. There is also hot soup in winter. If the group is on an adventure day, they will take a packed lunch with them.
- Evening meal consists of a main course and pudding, with a fruit option.
- Special diets –such as vegetarian, vegan, dairy free, wheat free etc. are catered for if we are informed prior to the course. There is space on the consent form for that information to be given.
- Meal times are taken in a ‘family style’ service – serving the food out on the table, eating together with the school staff. This allows the visiting staff to ensure children eat well and encourage good table manners.
- Everyone will have a short job to do before or after each mealtime, which could be laying tables, helping with supper or putting out things for breakfast.

Security:

- All the doors to the main house are locked externally so they can only be opened from the inside.
- The student entrance has a coded key pad system, and children and staff will receive the number for their stay on arrival.
- External entrances are monitored by CCTV cameras.
- Entrances to the grounds are gated overnight.

Website:

There is a lot more information on White Hall's website: www.whitehallcentre.com

We are also on:  [@Whitehallcentre](https://twitter.com/Whitehallcentre)

 www.facebook.com/whitehallderbyshire

Things to consider:

- What your policy on students phoning home during their stay is? It can cause a few problems and lose that feeling of independence aimed for.
- Mobile phones can cause difficulties such as privacy and child protection issues if used inappropriately.

If you need any more information to help you with a parents' evening, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We have a presentation that we can send out to you if required.

We are quality assured by the following organisations:

