



Minstead Study Centre  
School Lane  
Minstead  
Hampshire  
SO43 7GJ  
02380 813437

# Minstead Study Centre

## Parents pack (residential visits)



## General Information

Minstead Study Centre is a Hampshire County Council run environmental study Centre in the heart of the New Forest National Park. The Centre has been in existence for more than 50 years, and in that time tens of thousands of children and young people from Hampshire and beyond have taken part in day and residential visits – visits in which we try to help build connection to the natural world.

Groups get sole residential use of the Centre – when they are staying here they will be the only group staying here.

## Accommodation



Children sleep in one of two large bunk rooms contained in our cosy accommodation block. This is a modern and comfortable building, which remains lovely and warm throughout the year thanks to underfloor heating. Each bedroom has en suite shower and toilet facilities and a boot room.

Teachers sleep in rooms nearby to the children and the building is locked at night by school staff. Centre staff are on call overnight, and can be contacted by visiting leaders in case of emergency.



In addition, the accommodation block has a central social room, perfect for hot chocolate in the evenings before bedtime!

## Food

The kitchen and dining room are situated in the Victorian school building, next door to the accommodation block. We serve a continental breakfast each morning, the children make their own packed lunches and then we serve a warm home cooked meal in the evening, making use as much of possible of produce which we've grown on site, or bought from local suppliers. We also provide snacks throughout the day, ensuring that no child goes hungry.

Our catering team are used to providing food for children with special diets, and we will work with the school (and the parents if necessary) to ensure that we meet everyone's requirements.



## Outside



Outside the Centre there are 7 acres of grounds, where many of the activities take place during the day. The grounds have been designed with primary schools in mind and there are many areas which provide excellent opportunities for education activities to take place – woodlands, vegetable gardens, meadows a large, fenced pond and a beautiful thatched roundhouse – as well as lots of space to play, explore and let off steam. We also keep a small flock of friendly sheep, which most children who stay with us will enjoy visiting during their stay.

With our location in the heart of the National Park, many groups also spend time walking and hiking into the beautiful surrounding countryside during their stay with us.

## Activities

Groups who stay with us find that no matter what activities they select, their pupils show increased confidence, independence, and decision-making ability following the visit, and we believe that our wide variety of activities help to create more motivated learners, and help in raising standards.

Each school plans a bespoke set of activities with the Centre, which may cover a range of curricular subjects, including science, geography, history and art.

Our activities are led by our experienced education team – all of whom have extensive experience working in schools and Centres. You can rest assured that your children will be well cared for.

# Health and safety

## Security

At night, visiting teachers are given the keys to the buildings and shown the locking up procedure – and once locked no visitors are able to enter. There are interior twist lock to aid emergency exit. The grounds of the Centre are surrounded by fences and hedges, giving children a safe and secure place to part in our activities.

## Fire

The Centre maintains a comprehensive fire risk assessment to ensure that we maintain the highest standards of fire safety. All residential school visitors complete a fire drill on the first day of their visit. All areas of the accommodation block are covered by a sprinkler system and a modern and extremely sensitive fire alarm system.

## Risk Assessment

During their stay children will complete a wide range of activities, all of which have been comprehensively assessed for the likelihood of an accident and its potential severity. We aim to minimise all identified risks and yet allow visitors the freedom to safely explore the Centre environment. All activities are planned by experienced members of staff.

## Safeguarding

All staff have undergone an enhanced level DBS check before being cleared to work. All visiting adults on site are asked to wear an identification badge and to sign in and out at reception.

## Insurance

We are covered by the centrally provided Hampshire County Council insurance which includes public liability to a level of £50 million.

## First Aid

All residential children's groups bring an adult who is able to take on the role of 'first-aider'. Minstead Study Centre does have trained first-aiders on the staff, but cannot guarantee their availability 24 hours a day.

## Emergency Support

During the daytime, a number of Centre staff are normally on site, who will be able to assist in giving emergency support if required. Overnight, teachers are able to contact on-call Centre senior staff members in case of emergency.

## Equipment List

Most schools will provide children with a kit list for their trip – a list that will vary according to the time of year and the activities the school has chosen to partake in. All bed linen is provided, but guests are requested to provide their own towels and toiletries.

This list may be helpful for packing – please make sure belongings are named and please involve children in packing their bag (so they know where things are!)

- Wellington Boots
- Long Trousers for activities
- Waterproofs - coat and trousers (if possible)
- Fleece or coat
- Gloves, hat, scarf, extra sweaters (in the cold months)
- Insect repellent, sun screen and sun hats (in warm months).
- Night clothes and slippers
- Extra socks and underwear for the week
- Toiletries
- 1 towel
- Large plastic bag for dirty clothing and spare plastic bags for shoes
- Small game for free time i.e. top trumps
- Bed time book
- Teddy

Please don't bring aerosol sprays, sweets or extra food, electronic devices or mobile phones.