

Advice to Teachers Regarding Independent School Visits to Coombe Country Park

This document was created in March 2001 and was produced following consultation with Coombe Country Park's Education Service and Coventry City Council's Outdoor Education Steering Group and Personnel and Legal Generic Group.

Coombe Country Park has a proud tradition of providing an education service to schools. Over 6000 school pupils take part in Education-led activities each year.

Whilst we believe we can offer you with excellent service we also realise that some schools may wish to use the park independently. **As we are a public site we encourage schools to do this whilst asking them to bear in mind the following points to provide an enjoyable visit for ALL our visitors and staff.**

Please bear in mind that paying customers (i.e. schools on Education-led activities) will have priority on facilities and equipment.

Occupier's Liability: The Education Service is obliged to ensure everybody on site has a safe visit. Due to this duty, the Education Service needs information about activities to ensure they are appropriate for the site. If an activity is judged to be unsafe, the Education Service will take appropriate action.

Logistics

- ◆ Ensure you have adequate First Aid arrangements and emergency contingencies. Keep your First Aid Kit with you at all times.
- ◆ Ensure participants with any medical conditions have the necessary medication (e.g. inhalers) with them AT ALL TIMES.
- ◆ Please be aware of current child protection guidelines that if you wish to use any audio visual equipment, you must ensure that you have the correct consent forms.
- ◆ If it rains your pupils will get wet! Unfortunately we do not have cover for large numbers of pupils.
- ◆ There is no cloakroom facility on site therefore you will need to carry with you anything that you bring with you e.g. coats and bags.

Resources Available

- ◆ A variety of habitats to explore: woodland, grassland (amenity and meadow), and wetland.
- ◆ A bird hide with views over the woodland, wetland and heronry.
- ◆ Pond dipping stages.
- ◆ A permanent orienteering course designed to be used without a compass (maps available to buy in the shop).
- ◆ The Field Study Centre and Miller Suite Conference Room are both available for hire.
- ◆ A Visitor Centre with toilets, playground and café; interactive display, Information Centre and gift shop.
- ◆ Picnic benches.
- ◆ Wide open spaces.
- ◆ A network of all weather pathways.
- ◆ Disabled access throughout the park and public buildings.
- ◆ Wheelchairs are available free of charge (£5 refundable deposit required).

Also ...

Coventry City Council and Coombe Country Park genuinely believe in the educational experience that the site has to offer. There are two full time Education Officers on site who will happily offer free advice on planning your trip etc. provided an appointment is made.

Remember: classroom teachers are classroom specialists; field studies practitioners are field studies specialists. By coming on an Education-led activity you can use our expertise.

We have programmes for primary and secondary pupils ranging from team games to habitat studies. Activities run throughout the year at competitive prices!!

For more information on any of the above, please contact the Education Officers at
**Coombe Country Park, The Visitor Centre, Brinklow Road
Coventry CV3 2AB Tel no 024 76453720**