

Information for Parents and Children about our 2 day Robinwood courses at The Old School Centre

Robinwood Activity Centres develop children as individuals and as members of a team, with safety, enjoyment and learning as our priorities. We aim to respond to customer feedback to provide the best customer experience and to respond to staff feedback to create the best place to work.

A 1 night stay residential for younger children

Two full days and one night away from home is generally enough for most 7 to 9 year olds. Whilst they are on a school residential it is important that they are kept busy, stimulated, challenged and entertained. Since our first course in 1994, we have consulted closely with thousands of teachers who have brought groups to us. We have tailored our programme accordingly year by year and decided to introduce this new course exclusively for year three and four groups.



Robinwood at The Old School : Todmorden

The Old School Centre is where it all started 19 years ago. Set in the south pennines town of Todmorden, with brilliant transport links, fascinating local history and amazing natural resources.

Robinwood Staff and Safety

The quality of our staff team is probably the single most important factor in the success of Robinwood Activity Centres. Robinwood staff are friendly, experienced, confident,

conscientious, professional and fun. They have a warmth of personality and are sensitive to young people's needs.

We take great care to attract the best applicants by offering an excellent all round staff package and advertising widely the opportunities available. We then have a rigorous selection process and staff training programme, to ensure we appoint the best and then get the very best out of them. Our instructors hold nationally recognised qualifications where relevant qualifications exist and all instructors are qualified in first aid.

Our commitment to the training and development of all of our staff team resulted in us achieving the "Investors in People" Award. We have also achieved star accreditation as a 'Best Company' to work for and most recently achieved the highest score ever for a first time assessment for Investor in Customers accreditation.

We have an excellent safety record over 19 years of operation and currently more than 35,000 visiting pupils each year. All of our activities take place in safe secure environments that are appropriate to provide a safe introduction to adventure activities for year 3 and 4 groups.

Exclusively for the junior school age group

At Robinwood we only run courses for junior schools. We don't run any more advanced level activities, they are all suitable for complete beginners. All our activities are designed to provide a safe introduction to adventure and teamwork activities, in a suitable environment, for the 7 to 9 year old age group.

Robinwood Activities



The course will run from 1.00 pm on day one to 12.30 pm on day two, with a programme of 6 activities for the children to enjoy:

Archery : Children use bows appropriate to their size and strength. Everyone taking part in archery sessions must always follow strict range discipline. As the session develops, the skills learnt through expert coaching are put to use in tournaments and fun based archery challenges.

Caving : At Robinwood caving takes place in specially designed indoor caving systems. They are constructed for maximum realism and adventure, but also at a level that is just right for the 7 to 9 year old age group. The tunnel systems have emergency exits at frequent intervals. The children all wear caving helmets with a caving light, to guide them through the tunnel network.



Climbing : Climbing will take place on a purpose built climbing wall, providing a very safe environment to try climbing for the first time. Our instructors are not only highly skilled in the technical aspects of climbing, but also as motivators and confidence builders so they can ensure every child feels proud of what they have achieved.



Crate Challenge: Crate challenge is a high activity with the emphasis on teamwork. Four children, each wearing a harness with safety ropes attached are given the challenge of building a crate tower together. As for the climbing sessions one safety rope is attached to an auto-belay, whilst the other goes through a belay system operated by children. The safety rope ensures that anyone falling from the crate tower is gently lowered to the ground at a safe and steady pace. The children need to work as a team, climbing up the crate tower as they build it. The rest of the group offer assistance in different ways, including belaying and passing crates up to those building the tower as the tower gets higher.



Night Line : With blindfold in place the children put one hand on our night line rope and then follow it wherever it goes. It goes to all sorts of interesting places! Discussion of the senses and developing communication and team work throughout the group can provide many educational benefits on this session.



Piranha Pool : This session involves different 'crystal maze' type challenges, going back and to across our "piranha pool", without falling in. To achieve success the group must demonstrate skills in planning, communicating, evaluating and problem solving.

Home from home: Children on a Robinwood course are placed in activity groups, with on average between 10 and 11 children in the group and a group leader to look after the group throughout their stay.

Excellent supervision level: Children attending a Robinwood course are supervised throughout their stay; whether this is during activity sessions, break times, meal times or night times, there are always Robinwood staff timetabled to supervise. Children sleep in dormitories with all bedding provided. There are toilet and shower facilities close by. We recognise that children of this age do not always get showers of their own accord, so the group leaders ensure good standards of cleanliness with showers timetabled in to the activity programme. There are Robinwood staff timetabled to be on duty, awake and available, right through the night and the teachers sleep very close by. The building is always locked and made totally secure at night.

Robinwood meals: The food is good and there is plenty of it. As well as toast and cereals, we always provide a full cooked breakfast. Lunch is generally a lighter meal. We provide a cooked evening meal, followed by a tasty pudding. There are always alternatives available so that children can choose their meals, with meals designed to appeal to the children whilst maintaining a healthy balance throughout the two days of the course. There is always plenty of fresh fruit available. A vegetarian alternative is provided. We are also happy to cater for special diets as required. If you do have special dietary requirements please ensure that you give details on your personal information form, which we will receive at least three weeks before the course. If we know about your requirements in advance we will be able to cater for them.

What to bring: All specialist equipment is provided by Robinwood Activity Centre Ltd. so there is definitely no need to buy anything special for a trip to Robinwood. Please leave all valuables at home and come along with old clothes, so that it doesn't matter if they get wet and muddy. Robinwood will provide a full-suggested clothing list, in good time before the trip takes place. We will also do our very best to return clothing to the children that it belongs to, and this is made much easier if clothing coming to Robinwood can be labelled with the child's name.

Things not to bring: Please do not bring valuable items such as mobile phones, computer games, personal stereos etc Please do not bring a digital camera—if you wish to bring a camera we recommend an inexpensive disposable type. Please do not bring any aerosol sprays as our fire alarm system is very sensitive.

Medical and dietary details

Before children attend Robinwood we ask their parents or guardian to complete a 'personal information form' giving details, in particular, of any medical or dietary points that it is helpful for us to know. The course leader, group leader and any other key staff involved with the course are made aware of information supplied on these 'personal information forms'. We can cater for most things if we have advance warning on these forms. Information supplied is of course treated as confidential.