

## Risk-Benefit Assessment

Beaumanor has a long and successful history of providing outdoor and adventure education activities to young people. The benefits of these activities for participants are numerous and include:

- Increased levels of trust and opportunities to examine the concept of trust (us in them, them in us, them in themselves, them in each other)
- Involvement in activities leading to greater academic and vocational learning with improved achievement and attainment across a range of curricular subjects. Students are active participants, not passive consumers and a wide range of learning styles can flourish.
- Enhanced opportunities for 'real world' 'learning in context' and the development of the social aspects of intelligence.
- Increased risk management skills through opportunities for involvement in practical risk-benefit assessments ('what do we want to do and what do we need to do to make it safe enough?'). Giving learners the tools and experience necessary to assess their own risks in a range of contexts.
- Opportunities to practically examine the components of challenge (ie chance of gain or benefit / risk of loss or harm / accurate goal setting and judgement / willingness and commitment / activity outside the comfort zone (physical and/or emotional)
- Greater sense of personal responsibility
- Enhanced emotional intelligence (including a greater awareness of their own needs and the needs of others)
- Possibilities for genuine team working including enhanced communication skills
- Improved environmental appreciation, knowledge, awareness and understanding. Including opportunities to interact with a wild environment.
- Improved awareness and knowledge of the importance and practices of sustainability in the modern world
- Physical skill acquisition and the development of a fit and healthy lifestyle.

These benefits inform the centre's risk management policy. The centre's aim is to achieve an appropriate level of challenge to maximise the learning for each participant. The aim is not to make the learning environment as safe as possible but as safe as it needs to be.

Clearly adventure activities involve an element of challenge and, therefore, risk of loss or harm. This could involve participants, visiting staff, centre staff or members of the public in proximity to the activity.

Using the following strategies the centre will balance the benefits and risks in such a way as to bring the residual level of risk to an appropriate and tolerable level for each group and individual:

- Employment / deployment of competent staff
- Induction and initial / ongoing training
- Agreed and regularly reviewed operating procedures and practices
- Peer and management monitoring of delivery
- Awareness of and involvement in regional and national developments in activity delivery and management.

All teaching/instructional staff at the centre are competent to lead their programmed activities.

Competent means they:

- Either hold an appropriate NGB award or have been judged competent by a technical adviser / head of centre.
- Have been inducted into the centre's procedures
- Have received additional training appropriate to their role, including first aid, minibuss training, manual handling and management of the water environment, as appropriate.