

Hagg Farm Outdoor Education Centre and The John Hunt Base

Information for Parents and Carers



What is Hagg Farm Centre?

Hagg Farm Centre opened in 1988, and accommodates up to 60 pupils and staff. It is a residential centre located in the Peak District National Park, about an hour and a half from Nottingham, set in its own grounds in the Upper Derwent Valley. The John Hunt Base is a smaller, self-contained unit next to the main centre. Nottinghamshire County Council run the centres for pupils from secondary and special schools. Pupils come to the Centre with their teachers for visits from several days to a week, for a programme of environmental and outdoor activities.

The activities offered are designed so that the young people will succeed at them. Hagg Farm is licensed by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority. All activities are risk assessed and operate within the Centre's Code of Practice.



Staffing

There will be a teacher at your child's school who is the named leader of the visit and who has visited Hagg Farm before. The teachers and adults accompanying the pupils stay for the whole visit, including overnight. Hagg Farm staff help them during the day and usually lead the adventure sessions. All Hagg Farm staff have first aid qualifications and at least one adult staying overnight is also a first aider.



What Hagg Farm offers

The activities at the centre are carefully chosen by the school and our staff, to give the pupils a range of valuable experiences. These aim to help pupils understand the environment more, help them work in a team, support their school work in an exciting way, and give them challenges outdoors. The residential experience itself is a great way for pupils to get to know each other and their teachers, and to learn how to get along with each other.



Depending on the weather the adventure activities might include orienteering, rock climbing, caving, hill walking, gorge walking or possibly cross country skiing (if it snows). Experienced and qualified staff will lead these activities and no pupil is ever forced to do anything they don't want to.



During the evening and night

The centre has comfortable accommodation, with full central heating, hot showers and separate boys and girls dormitories for 4-8 pupils in each room. The visiting teachers have sleeping accommodation in the same area of the centre, and will ensure that the pupils are settled each night before going to bed themselves, having locked all the outside doors. Fire doors allow exit from all areas of the building and a fire drill is carried out when the group arrives. If the course includes camping on the field behind the centre, younger pupils will have a member of staff camping near to them. Staff will always be camping with pupils at other locations.



Parents'/carers' and pupils' responsibilities

A residential outdoor visit can offer a young person opportunities and educational experiences that can last a lifetime. The centre has an excellent safety record and any risks during the course are low. These risks are at a level similar to normal outdoor play. It is important to ensure that your child understands the need to listen to, and follow instructions, and behave sensibly.

The outdoor environment has some extremely small specific risks. Slow moving water can rarely cause an illness (Weil's disease) which requires antibiotics. Please tell your doctor if 'flu like symptoms become apparent up to 19 days after the visit. Radon is present in the air we breathe and can collect in caves. Exposure over years has been linked to illness, but a few hours exploring a cave offers an insignificant risk, and is far outweighed by the educational value of the activity.

To help the teachers and Hagg Farm staff please return Hagg Farm's Parental Consent Form to the school leader and make sure that you provide any necessary medical information about your child. If there is anything else you think the teachers should know in order to safely care for your child (eg. sleepwalking) please tell them on this form.



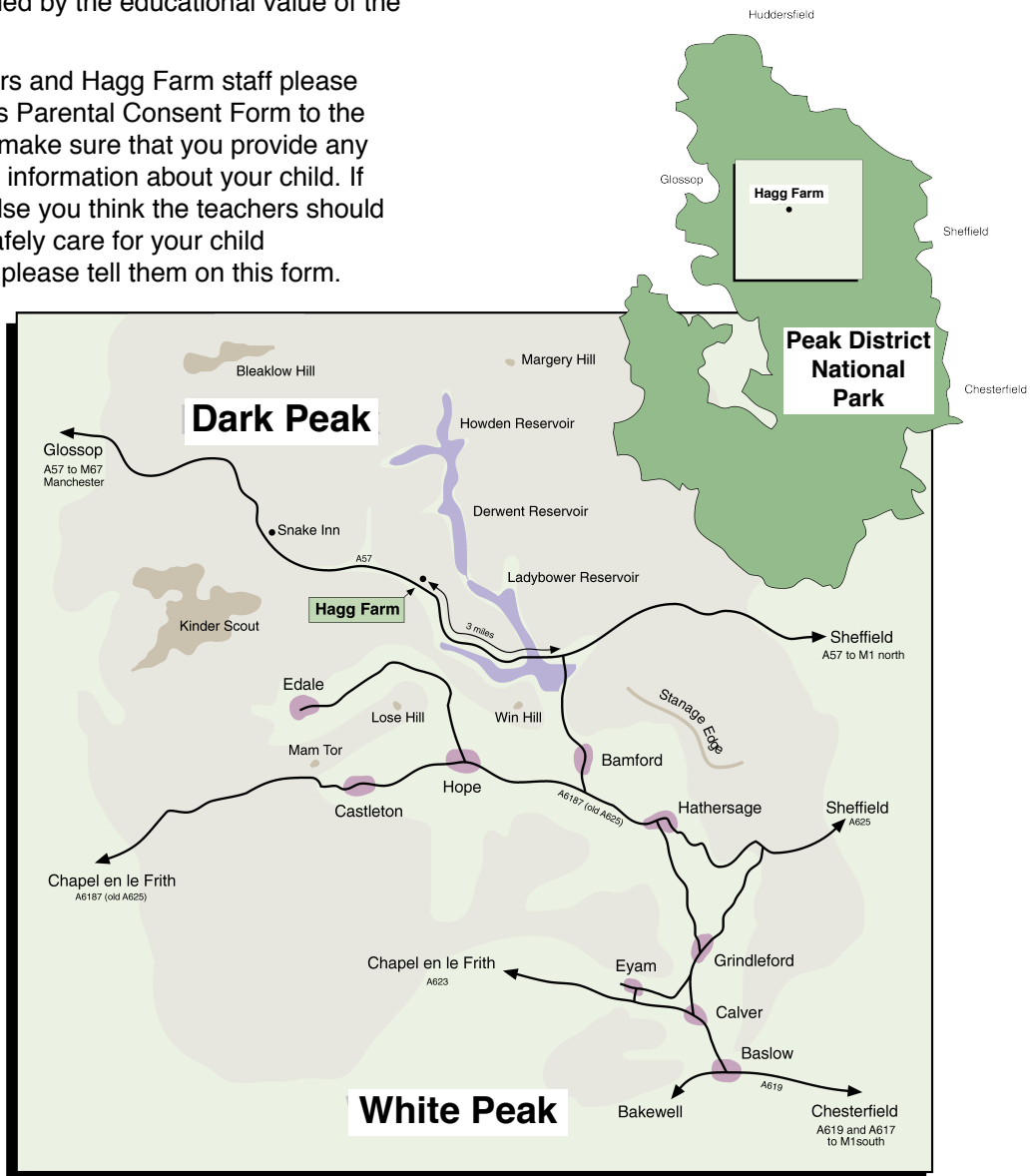
Contact arrangements

Please note that it is better to leave mobile telephones at home - most don't work at the centre anyway! There is a payphone at the centre and you can contact Hagg Farm in an emergency only on (01433) 651594 (office hours) or 651525 (evenings).



Finally.....

We are looking forward to welcoming your child to Hagg Farm and hope that this information sheet helps answer some of the questions you may have. Your child's school will provide further details, and should be able to assist you with any other queries.



Ref: Oct05/IntroHagg/LW/Zip 12

This information is produced by Hagg Farm Outdoor Education Centre, which is managed by Nottinghamshire County Council Education Department.