

Scottish Borders Council Activity Camp Behaviour Policy

We aim to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment at our activity camps, with fun and inclusive activities. We endeavour to ensure that all young people feel safe within our camps, are treated as individuals and are given fair opportunities to learn and have fun. We therefore set high expectations for behaviour and manage this using clear, consistent and positive strategies. Staff will promote and actively encourage positive behaviour by leading by example. Staff will establish clear boundaries, so our young people become aware of the routines, settings and venues and know what is expected of them.

If there are any specific behaviour concerns and/or support mechanisms that staff need to be aware of, parents/carers should make this known when they register their young person online for the camp. Staff may also consult with parents/carers at the first day of drop-off, to ensure clear strategies are in place, should unwanted/unacceptable behaviour occur.

Activity camp behaviour expectations:

- Comply with camp rules and expectations
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of other camp participants, volunteers, coaches and camp managers
- Be kind, gentle and helpful
- Be honest, listen to others and look after property
- Be polite and respectful
- Ask for help if needed
- Participate in a variety of activities and give everything a go

Encouraging positive behaviour at activity camps:

- Praising and reinforcing good/appropriate behaviour
- Staff acting as positive role models
- Informing parents/carers about individual achievements
- Offering a variety of play opportunities to meet the needs of the young people attending the camp
- Activity rewards – for example, letting pupils choose an activity for later in the day

As young people develop and learn, it is inevitable that there will be times when they need support and guidance to understand their behaviour is not acceptable. Camp staff will try to determine the cause of triggers of any unwanted/unacceptable behaviour to prevent the situation from happening again or escalating. As stated above, staff will endeavour to also work with parents/carers to determine and utilise any coping strategies/mechanisms currently used to support the young person when/where required.

Procedures for dealing with unwanted/unacceptable behaviour:

- Challenging behaviour will be addressed in a calm, firm and positive manner
- In the first instance, the young person will be given a clear explanation as to why the behaviour is unacceptable and a reasonable consequence if behaviour does not stop, will be given
- Staff will give the young person an opportunity to explain their behaviour, to help prevent recurrence
- Staff will encourage and facilitate mediation between young people to try to resolve conflicts through discussions and negotiation
- If unacceptable behaviour is repeated, the young person will be temporarily removed from the activity - again staff will discuss why the behaviour is deemed unacceptable
- If unacceptable behaviour continues once young person has rejoined the activity, parents/carers will be contacted
- If, following consultations with parents/carers and the implementation of behaviour management strategies, a young person continues to behave inappropriately or unsafely, the camp manager may ask for the young person to be collected from the opportunity. The reasons and processes involved, will be clearly explained to both parents/carers and the young person.

Unwanted/unacceptable behaviours include, but are not limited to:

- Hurting, injuring or upsetting another child, themselves or camp staff
- Showing a lack of respect to others, including other camp participants and staff
- Damaging equipment or property

On behalf of our camp manager and staff, we thank you in advance for your cooperation with regards to the above. We look forward to seeing everyone soon.