



YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

Q. I'm concerned about the safety of my child when doing activities. Are your instructors qualified?

A. All of our instructors are qualified and experienced in the activities they lead. All of our activities have been risk-assessed and have strict standard operating procedures. **We are also licensed and approved by the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority (AALA) and work with them to ensure maximum safety in our activity programmes.**

Q. Some of the Outdoor Activities my child will be doing are risky, aren't they?

A. There will always be some risk in the activities we offer. This residual risk is inherent in the activity, and cannot be eliminated without destroying the activity, or the reason for doing it. However, this risk is generally confined to a similar level that a normal child involved in normal active play may experience. The level of risk is low, and we believe it is a tolerable risk when compared to the benefits. Our aim is to reduce risks to the lowest tolerable level consistent with the nature and ethos of the activity.

Q. What about minibus safety?

A. Our fleet of minibuses are well maintained by qualified staff. All minibuses are fitted with seatbelts, and carry first aid kits and fire extinguishers. All drivers are qualified and have passed an in-house minibus drivers test or a PCV test.

Q. What happens if my child becomes ill or is injured?

A. Injuries and illnesses are often very minor, and are treated by Abernethy Staff. All instructors and many of our front-of-house staff are trained first-aiders.

Q. What level of supervision is there at Abernethy?

A. During the outdoor activity sessions, instructors work with groups not exceeding 10 pupils. We aim to have a ratio of 1 instructor to 8 pupils. Outside of activity session times, visiting leaders are responsible for the children.

Q. I've heard that Abernethy is in the middle of nowhere! Is it safe?

A. Our rural locations provide an ideal environment for the children to have a perfect residential experience. Our private estates are secluded and safe, allowing you to have peace of mind.

Q. Is the centre locked at night?

A. Access to the sleeping accommodation is restricted by a key system after about 10.15pm. If there are any problems during the night, a duty manager can be contacted using an emergency phone in the main house

Q. What about fire safety?

A. The main house is fitted with an automatic fire detection and alarm system – all bedrooms have smoke detectors. The children are made aware of fire exits and fire procedures on arrival.

Q. Does Abernethy have a Child Protection Policy?

A. The safety and welfare of your child is of paramount importance to us. Abernethy has a comprehensive child protection policy, which all of our staff are committed to.

Q. I understand that Abernethy is a *Christian* run organisation. What does that mean?

A. The Abernethy Trust was set up to provide people of all ages with the opportunity to experience

the beauty and challenge of the outdoors within a healthy Christian environment. Over the last 40 years, we have built up an enviable reputation for safety and excellence in all that we do. Each team member is a committed Christian – we hope that our beliefs will be reflected in the way that your children are cared for during their stay. The *'Time Out'* session each evening explores the relevance of the Christian faith today, and is presented in a fun and informal way. If you choose to, you can excuse your child from attending *Time Out*, but we find that it is one of the highlights of the Abernethy Experience, not to be missed!

Q. My child has a serious food allergy. Is that a problem?

A. Of course not! Providing we are given information in advance, our Food Services Team are more than happy to cater for special dietary requirements.

Q. Abernethy sounds great! Do you do holidays for adults?

A. We certainly do! As well as school parties, we take Youth groups, Duke of Edinburgh groups and any other group of 10 people or more. See the website for more information or call us for a full colour brochure.

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