

Frequently asked Questions and Some Answers

Q: What experience does Blue Peris have in working with schools, colleges, adults, youth service etc ?

A: As of the one pioneers of Outdoor Education and Outdoor Adventure courses, we are in our fourth decade of working with schools, young people and adults. If you consider the variety of courses and clients we have provided courses for over the years – that's a lot of experience! It is this experience – & our ability to listen to what all our client groups want and incorporate it into our programmes - that bring them back again & again to Blue Peris.

Our staff have a huge variety of experience of working in a vast array of centre's and schools with children of all ages and backgrounds.

Q: How up-to-date are your programmes?

A: From the very outset, Blue Peris has been synonymous with up-to-date Outdoor Education programmes. Our programmes are individually tailored to every group's needs. Our senior staff will discuss your needs and ensure the educational benefits of the course are built into the programme. These are then reviewed on a daily basis whilst you are at the centre and changes may take place to suit the weather / pupils abilities.

Q: Why is a residential school visit so important to my class?

A: In addition to meeting many requirements of the National Curriculum, a visit to Blue Peris provides your pupils with a brand new learning environment that is exciting, challenging and fun. It also allows pupils to learn real life skills in dynamic and varied environments.

They will have opportunities to expand their horizons and build their confidence and independence by trying new adventure and educational activities in a safe, secure environment led by experienced and qualified staff. Most pupils will flourish in their personal skills throughout a course, have times where they are out of their comfort zone and be a more confident person upon returning to school.

As a group, the Blue Peris Experience promotes team building and often brings a class – and its teacher – closer together.

Q: What insurance arrangements are there?

A: Blue Peris has Public Liability Insurance.

Schools or individuals will need insurance to cover baggage, personal effects, cancellations etc. Unfortunately, Blue Peris cannot provide this insurance.

Q: Do pupils from different schools or organisations mix?

A: Blue Peris can be a busy place, we may have upto 2 schools staying at any one time. If this is the case then the groups stay in separate buildings (Blue Peris or White Peris)

You will get exclusive use of Blue Peris or White Peris However; there may be other groups in stores and some outbuildings at Blue Peris collecting equipment (these will be supervised).

Q: What is included in the course fees?

A: As we design bespoke programmes, this will depend exactly on what you have asked for. Often it covers a fully supervised programme of educational daytime activities and a program of evening activities. In addition to this, accommodation, wholesome meals, specialist equipment, use of classrooms, resources, use of centre grounds, access to a small on site shop and travel on activities off site.

Q: Are there any extra / hidden costs?

No, unless there is a visit to one of the local indoor climbing walls, mountain biking trails, or castle visits. Also, any nights spent at commercial campsites will require an extra charge. If these specific activities are added to your programme before or after your arrival, then we will need to charge accordingly.

Q: How secure is Blue Peris?

A: All external doors to Blue Peris are fitted with combination locks so only authorised personal can access the main building.

The site is clearly defined and surrounded by a variety of walls and fences, but we do not have a gated site. We are in quite a remote location, so there is little temptation for students to wonder off site and they are briefed with regards to this upon arrival.

We ask visiting course leaders to carry out a security check before retiring to bed.

Q: Do you have fire drills?

A: Arriving at the buildings, all schools receive a fire safety briefing, where all emergency exits and meeting areas are pointed out and procedures for evacuating the building are discussed. This is followed by an emergency fire drill that involves everyone – pupils, teachers and staff alike. Visiting members of staff are given training and roles in the event of a fire.

Q: What are your accommodation arrangements like?

A: Pupils sleep in bunk beds separated by gender in different rooms in warm, comfortable dorms. Sheets, duvets and pillows are provided in Blue Peris and White Peris.

Toilet and shower facilities also form part of the accommodation blocks.

Q: What about dates and prices?

A: For dates and prices, please call the office on 01286 870853 or email Blueperis@gll.org We will be happy to provide you with more information, answers to any questions and a quote for your chosen dates and the type of course.

Q: What care is available during the night?

A: A majority of our programmes include a Blue Peris Instructor on site from 7.45am to 8.30/9.00pm.

Outside these times then course Leaders are responsible for their groups. If these times change then visiting staff take charge over the extend time.

There are always arrangements made for emergency contacts to be made if there are any issues during the time no Blue Peris member of staff is on site.

For courses where there are no visiting staff i.e. such as young person holiday courses, D of E residential etc, a member of Blue Peris staff is available, on site, 24hrs a day who also has contact details of other centre staff.

Q: What are the special safety provisions for watersports and other activities?

A: Blue Peris operates under an Adventure Activities Licensing Service (AALS) license and activities are all led by suitably qualified, trained and experienced members of staff.

Q: Will pupils need additional spending money?

A: Whilst money is not required, we do have a small tuck and souvenir shop and some schools choose to make a visit to an ice cream shop one day.

Q: What's the food like?

A: Our breakfast, packed lunch and dinner menus are all created to be child friendly and make sure the young people are well fed for their course. The choices vary from day to day, and are picked in advance from a menu sent out to schools by each pupil. Meals are served in a communal dining room where there is always fresh salad available to complement their dinner. We can also cater for students with special religious or dietary needs if we are informed in advance. Students make their own lunch which again gives them a choice of their sandwich fillings (Cheese, Ham, Tuna, Jam, Chocolate spread) and snacks. Allowing students to make their own lunches allows students to practice other life skills as well as ensuring they have made lunches they will actually eat.

Q: What about emotional upsets?

A: All Blue Peris staff are trained to take responsibility for the wellbeing of the pupils who are in their care & to offer them all the attention they need. We serve to create a warm & supportive environment at all times.

The centre has a safeguarding policy in place.

Q: When is bedtime?

A: Children are supervised by the visiting staff in view of bedtime., We generally suggest a lights-out policy of 10.30pm, but this may vary depending on the age of the group and their leader's preferences.

Q: What about pupils with special needs?

A: Blue Peris has a commitment to improving its ability to work with special needs groups. We can cope with many needs as long as teachers make us aware of them at the time of booking. Pupils with special needs who are used to taking part in activities with the rest of the class are given extra care and attention as soon as they are identified to us. We will advise you if we think we are not equipped to cope with a specific situation. Contact the centre if you have any questions.

Q: What should parents do regarding illness?

A: We ask parents to be vigilant before your child's trip to Blue Peris. If your child shows symptoms of illness please inform their teacher or trip leader who can contact us directly for information.

Q: Can parents telephone students?

A: In special circumstances, of course. We do strongly advise that pupils do not bring mobile phones on site.

Q: Do you have first aid cover?

A: All Blue Peris operational staff are first aid trained and qualified.

Q: Can you assist with launching & promoting the trip to parents?

A: Once you have made a booking, we are happy to help in any way by supplying photos which can promote the course. In our experience, a Parent's Evening is an invaluable element to launch your visit.

Q: Do pupils need any specialist clothing?

A: Blue Peris has an extensive set of outdoor equipment available for students. We will supply all students with all the specialist equipment required for any activity. On residential courses students will be provided with a rucksack, waterproofs, a blue peris fleece jumper, a balaclava, wellies, walking boots. If you have your own outdoor clothing, you are welcome to bring it; if it is not suitable we will be able to provide something that is! The website includes some advice and a list of suggested clothing.

Q: What if the weather is poor

A We are very experienced in dealing with whatever weather comes our way. The weather is discussed each morning and plans based around this. We do endeavor to carry on with activities, but safety is never compromised.

Q Do you have to be fit to take part in a Blue Peris course.

For our school, college and youth courses having a positive attitude and a willingness to try new things are more important than physical fitness. Our staff will support and encourage everyone to get the most out of the course. If you are unsure please contact the centre.

Q Can I view the centre's Risk Assessment (RA) ?

A Our RA documents are in a language which supports those with experience of using them. Please contact centre for further information

Q What emergency procedures are in place?

A Staff that deliver activities hold a first aid qualification. The centre has an emergency file which gives all visiting staff details of hospitals, doctors etc and contact numbers of the senior managers at the centre.

Q Do I as a visiting member of staff need to take part in activities?

A Ideally, we require a member of the visiting staff to be with the activity groups at all times. In terms of the staff taking part in each individual element of the activity (i.e. the abseil), there is no obligation for you to join in. Despite this, it is worth bearing in mind all the activities are tailored to the individual, very safe and if the teacher joins in, this has a massively positive impact on the group dynamic. Students often find new found respect for teachers who participate fully.