

## VISITING LEADERS AND TEACHERS RESPONSIBILITIES

### **What is the role of the group leader during the trip?**

For the duration of the stay, teachers/leaders are “in loco parentis”. This means that you are responsible for the overall care and well being of the students. Our staff will assist when necessary but the control and well being of the students is essentially the visiting staff’s prime role in any residential visit.

During each day there are set times when our trained instructors are responsible for the delivery of activity sessions. During the activity sessions a group leader should accompany each of the groups. Whilst our staff team is responsible for the delivery of the activity sessions, the group leader is still ultimately responsible for the student’s welfare.

The Maes-y-Lade instructors have strict procedures that they will follow to ensure that each activity is run safely. Their main focus is to ensure that all members of the group can participate in each activity safely. The instructors are trained in group management and control so that they can involve all members of the group.

**The visiting leader’s role is to ensure that the students are behaving in an appropriate way so that the activity can be both fun and safe for all involved. If a student’s behaviour is continually preventing an activity from running well, the visiting leader should take time to talk with them to enable others to continue working with the instructor. Maes-y-Lade instructors will not discipline students and therefore rely on the visiting leaders with each group to do so.**

**For sessions, such as climbing and abseiling, the visiting leader is required to oversee the remainder of the group, freeing up the instructors to focus on the one to one instruction required with students on the climb. Where an instructor will be working with one or two pupils at a time, the visiting leader is responsible for the behaviour of the rest of the group.**

There is also a need for clear lines of communication and therefore we request that if there are any problems or issues raised during your party’s stay, we ask for matters of a serious nature to be communicated by party leaders to Centre Managers only.

We encourage visiting teachers/leaders to have a go at the various activities if they wish to as long as they have been present for the safety talk. Often it is a chance for teachers/leaders to enjoy the challenge of trying something new. The students also love to see them involved.

If you, as party leader, could make the visiting staff with your group aware of the above responsibilities, it would help both your group and our staff to ensure that students and adults alike can maximise their enjoyment at our centre.