

Primary school residential



KS2 guide

Hello, and welcome to YHA

Over the next few pages we're going to tell you a lot about the memorable, perspective-shifting residentials that we offer, and help you discover which one is right for you. But first, we'd like to tell you a bit about YHA and how we came to be one of the lead education providers in the UK.

YHA officially formed on 10th April 1930. We were established on a shoestring by a band of passionate volunteers. Our founders gave ordinary young people in Britain the opportunity – for the very first time – to escape to the countryside and enjoy leisure pursuits on a scale only previously possible for the wealthy.

Our founding purpose still goes to the core of what we stand for. Today, YHA has more than 60 Learning Outside the Classroom accredited sites, more than any other residential provider in the UK. Our diverse network of hostels is full to bursting with knowledgeable staff who make every school trip memorable and rewarding.

Our action, adventure and activity packages are national curriculum-linked and can be tailored to meet the specific requirements of your group. We offer self-led residentials as well as day activities. And everything we offer is set against a backdrop of inspiring surroundings in the natural environment.

We've spent decades perfecting what we do. And we'd love to share it with you. So, let's get started.

Our charitable object

To help all, especially young people of limited means, to a greater knowledge, love and care of the countryside, and appreciation of the cultural values of towns and cities, particularly by providing youth hostels or other accommodation for them in their travels, and thus to promote their health, recreation and education.



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Access for all

We create unique opportunities for people from all backgrounds to experience amazing places, share extraordinary journeys and take a different path through life.

YHA offers support to educational groups where members of the group are eligible for pupil premium and where children and young people face additional social challenges. We are particularly keen to support groups of young people who have not undertaken a residential activity previously.

Take your school to any one of our 100+ hostels

With a YHA school trip you can be assured of a safe, fulfilling and unforgettable residential that will stay with students long after the coach journey home.

Working together with teachers and experts in their fields, we've prepared a range of fully flexible residential options for school groups of all shapes, sizes and abilities.

Your pupils could be scrambling up a rock face, abseiling down a viaduct or canoeing on a real lake. They could be connecting with nature and discovering how to help protect the natural environment.

You can enhance your stay by adding on options such as searching for life on the seashore, taking part in medieval banquets or learning the art of teamwork.

Our flexible approach to planning your residential sets us apart from other providers. Whether you want a self-led adventure, the whole place to yourselves, activities and meals provided, or a bespoke combination, our experienced staff will create a tailor-made residential to meet the educational needs of your class and offer exciting ways to engage, challenge and inspire every member of your group.

Why choose YHA

- 100+ locations across England and Wales by the coast, in the countryside and in cities
- Over 60 LOTC accredited sites and counting – the most of any provider in the UK
- A wide range of properties from 10s to 100s of beds
- Sole use of hostels available
- Free planning visits and free leader places
- Tailored, affordable packages
- Support for schools available
- Expert, friendly staff
- Delicious food catered to your group's requirements
- Classroom spaces available at some hostels



We want to be as green as our logo

We have a long history of caring for the natural world. And we know just how vital it is to be aware of our environmental impact.

Since September 2019, we no longer provide single-use plastic bottles in packed lunches at any hostels. Thanks to a successful bid for grants from Waitrose and Partners and Hostelling International, we have been busy rolling out water refilling stations across our network. This will remove 500,000 plastic bottles from our network every year.

Some of our green initiatives:

- We've increased on site recycling by 8%, saving 888 tonnes of carbon in the first six months
- We've saved 22 tonnes of carbon per year by installing LED light bulbs at our National Office
- We swapped our membership cards from plastic to cardboard
- We've removed single-use plastic straws and drinks stirrers from our cafés and bars, saving 100,000 per year





Our network

Key shows how many beds available at each hostel

- 25-50
- 51-75
- 76-100
- 101-125
- 126-150
- 151+



Spotlight on YHA Chester Trafford Hall

We're delighted to highlight YHA Chester Trafford Hall which is perfect for hosting groups. The hostel is located just outside the historic city of Chester.

This hostel combines the grandeur of a Georgian mansion house with excellent facilities. It has 53 en suite bedrooms, which sleep between two and five guests, provided in eco-friendly chalet accommodation behind the main house and a separate annexe, which is ideal for school groups who prefer their own space. The hostel has four large meeting rooms, as well as classrooms available making YHA Chester

Trafford Hall a great option for your next residential, be it a self-led stay or taking the opportunity to enjoy one of our popular activity packages. The site has fantastic environmental credentials. It's heated by 100% renewable energy, has a stable annexe that's carbon neutral, and has its own organic kitchen garden. There are 14 acres of beautiful grounds complete with mature woodland and landscaped gardens to explore.

The Grade II-listed hostel is perfectly placed, situated just four miles from the city of Chester, in the village of Wimbolds Trafford. It's close-by to the many attractions of rural Cheshire and the historic walls of the Roman city as well as Chester Zoo and Blue Planet Aquarium making YHA Chester Trafford Hall a great option for your next trip.

Check out our full range of discovery, multi-activity and Alex Rider packages online at yha.org.uk/hostel/yha-chester-trafford-hall.





Activities:

Discovery package

The grounds at the hostel are suitable for a range of onsite activities such as shelter building, fire-lighting, team building exercises, archery, habitat studies, camp fires and a wide range of games. (see page 18)

Multi-activity package

YHA Chester Trafford Hall is superbly located for access to great locations for climbing, abseiling, and a variety of water sports. You can add these to our onsite sessions for an adrenaline filled multi-activity stay. (see page 21)

Alex Rider missions

Both our discovery and multi-activity packages can be themed round our exclusive Alex Rider programmes where you can join us on our spy training camp. Every participant receives a free copy of 'Stormbreaker'. (see page 14)

Connecting to Nature

Engage young people with fun, nature-based activities designed to connect them with the environment and teach a range of mindfulness techniques. (see page 26)

Bolt-on activities

Our YHA led onsite sessions and off-site adventurous activities can be added to your stay as either a half day or full day bolt-on. (see page 28)

Winter residential

We know the dramatic impact residential can have on young people and we are committed to making them as accessible as possible.

Booking a winter residential with YHA provides the chance to get more children away at the very best prices as well as setting up friendships and learning for the year ahead.

From 3rd November 2024 to 28th February 2025 and 2nd November 2025 to 28th February 2026, (excluding 30th December to 1st January), we are offering 25% off midweek stays (Sunday to Thursday) for school groups of more than 15 people.

We'll help you explore the best that England and Wales have to offer during the colder months. Enjoy great value accommodation, dedicated facilities and tasty catering options.



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A visit in the winter months creates a reservoir of memories that will stay with the children for the rest of their lives. In later life, ex-pupils will unfailingly refer to something that happened on one of our winter residential with heartfelt warmth and emotion.

Headteacher at St Wilfrid's CE Primary School

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Self-led residential

Our self-led options give you the freedom to run your own residential whilst enjoying a wide range of accommodation options and group-friendly facilities. In addition to hostel accommodation, please ask about our camping barns, pods, cabins and campsites as a stay that's a little out of the ordinary may be perfectly suited to your group.

Contact us

Email
groupreservations@yha.org.uk

Call
[01629 592 637](tel:01629592637)

Our facilities include:

Meeting/classrooms, games rooms, drying rooms, hostel grounds, great social spaces, outdoor grounds, self-catering kitchens, restaurants serving breakfast, picnic lunch and evening meals, WiFi.

Our experienced and friendly team are always here to support you with every aspect of planning your visit. Our flexible approach means that we can provide you with a break that's tailored to your needs and delivered at the low prices group leaders expect from YHA.

Make your own itinerary

Our flexible package building means that you can choose what you want to do, when.

We can tailor your stay to be exactly what you need it to be so that it meets the needs of your class and helps you reach your learning objectives.

Time	Day one	Day two	Day three
8.30am - 9.30am		Breakfast	Breakfast
9.30am - 12.30pm		Activity choice	Activity choice
12.30pm - 1.30pm		Lunch	Lunch
2.00pm - 5.00pm	Activity choice	Activity choice	Departure
5.00pm - 7.00pm	Dinner	Dinner	
7.30pm - 8.30pm	Evening activity	Evening activity	





Activities available*

- abseiling
- archery
- canoeing
- caving
- climbing
- crate tower
- find the double agent
- guided walk
- map skills and navigation
- raft building
- shelter building and fire lighting
- team challenges

Alternative lengths of residential are available.

*Activities may be site specific, please speak to our advisors for details.

Evening activities

- egg rocket launch
- fire building
- night hike
- night line
- orienteering

Alex Rider missions

Ignite your students' imaginations, enjoy adventures in the great outdoors and spark a love of reading with our Alex Rider packages. We've teamed up with Walker Books and author Anthony Horowitz to bring you two exciting options:

Mission Briefing

This is our entry level Alex Rider package which includes a range of on-site activities with our classic spy theme.

Activities include:

Archery, orienteering, guided navigation walks, team building, fire lighting, bushcraft, shelter building, hunt the double agent, code breaking, gadget design.

Classified Mission

Similar in theme to our Mission Briefing package, but with the option to include more adventurous activities.

Activities include:

Abseiling, rock climbing, canoeing, raft building, orienteering, mountain and navigation hikes, gorge or ghyll scrambling, weaselling, caving, survival skills, night hikes, gadget design, code cracking, observation skills.



www.alexrider.com Trademarks Alex Rider™; Boy with Torch Logo™ © Stormbreaker Productions Ltd





Available at:

- YHA Castleton Losehill Hall
- YHA Chester Trafford Hall
- YHA Grinton Lodge
- YHA Langdale
- YHA Ravenstor
- YHA St Briavels Castle
- YHA Wye Valley

“

From the moment we arrived, the ‘special agent’ mission got the group hooked. All the activities were linked to the spy theme. I would recommend this residential to any Y5 or Y6 teacher.

Teacher, Stonelow Primary School

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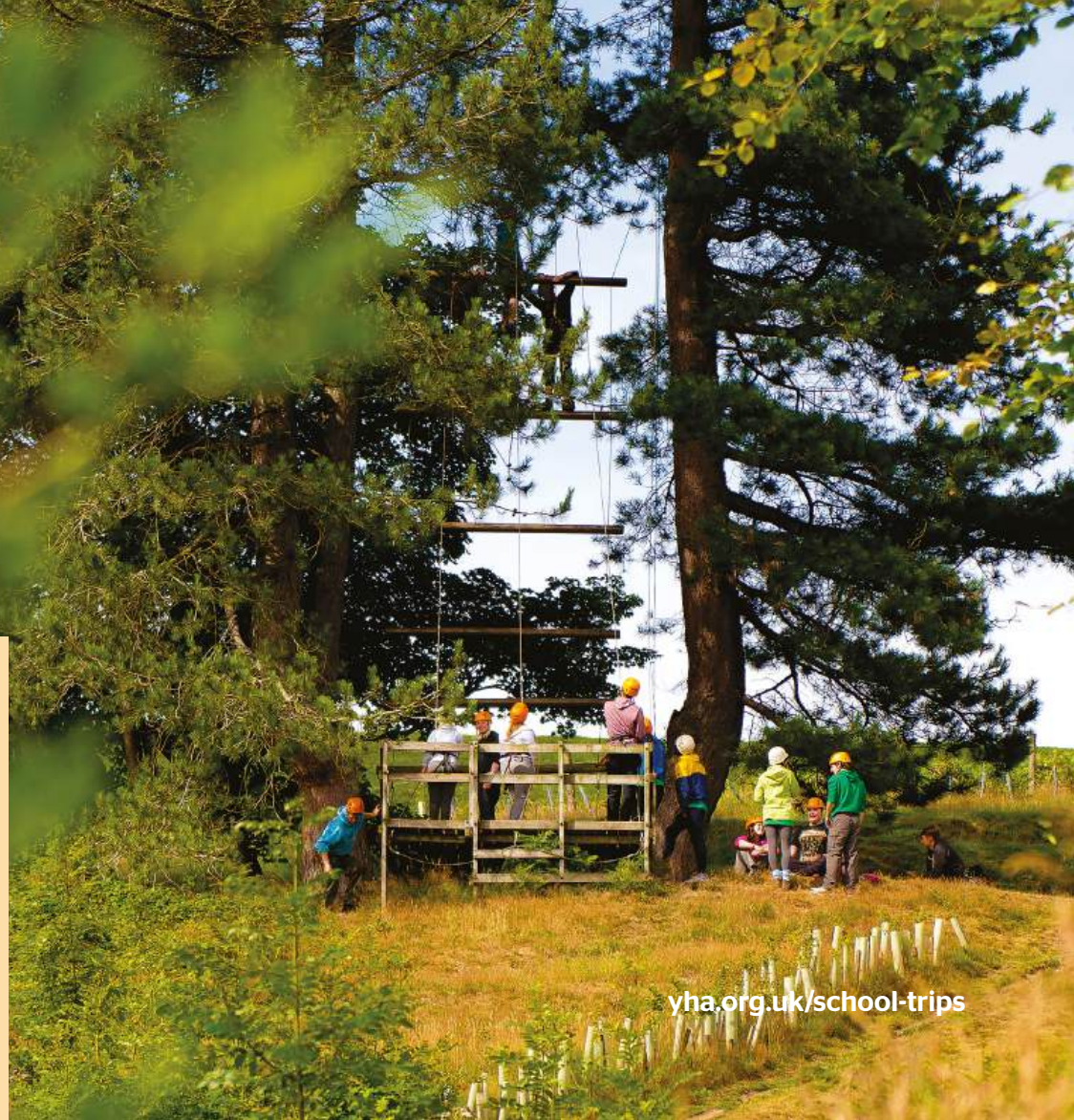
Participating students – or agents as they will be referred to for the duration of the camp – will also receive a free copy of Alex Rider Stormbreaker, courtesy of Walker Books, and participation certificates. Plus, participating schools will receive exclusive discounts on the Alex Rider series.

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Weaselling was fun because none of the teachers can tell you off for getting dirty.

Pupil, Fosse Primary School

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Action adventure package

Designed to make the most of the natural world around us, this package really takes the challenge up a level.

Forget simulated experiences indoors and instead engage your pupils with exhilarating activities in the great outdoors. You'll see the difference that a genuine experience makes as your group tackles the thrills of natural rock surfaces or man-made structures including bridges and viaducts, breathe in fresh country air as they prepare to take a leap of faith, or paddle down the river as cool water slaps against the side of their canoe.

Teamwork is key as the adventure begins. Pupils are encouraged to step out of their comfort zone to try different things and take on new challenges.

With the support of our experienced staff, pupils will take on a range of activities, each one intended to improve their skills, strengthen friendships and help them grow in confidence.

Activities include:

Caving, weaselling, high ropes, abseiling, canoeing, raft building, leap of faith, night hike.

Available at:

- YHA Edale Activity Centre
- YHA Okehampton
- YHA Okehampton Bracken Tor

Discovery package

Designed to enable teachers to create their own stay, our discovery package offers a flexible programme of thrilling, challenging and memorable experiences that can be tailored to support the educational needs of your group. For example, if you are looking to focus on communication, we can build team challenges, shelter building and orienteering into your programme. Alternatively, if you wanted to focus on personal achievement, you may decide to include archery, fire lighting and a guided walk. With a range of activities

spanning history, geography, literacy and PSHE, to name a few, we can support all your cross-curricular needs.

Due to the variety of options available at a great number of hostels, plus the opportunity to extend your stay as you wish, this package offers great value whilst delivering activities that will feed your pupils' sense of adventure and discovery.

Speak to us about upgrading your discovery package to include a full day of activities.

Activities include:

Guided walk, archery, fire lighting, orienteering, shelter building, team challenges, archaeological dig, river dipping, let's get cooking.



yha.org.uk/school-trips



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My favourite activity was archery. I didn't think I would get a bullseye but you boosted my confidence so I did. Thank you for making me feel so confident and happy.

Pupil, Howden Juniors

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Available at:

- YHA Boggle Hole
- YHA Castleton Losehill Hall
- YHA Chester Trafford Hall
- YHA Grinton Lodge
- YHA Ilam Hall
- YHA Langdale
- YHA Malham
- YHA Ravenstor
- YHA South Downs
- YHA St Briavels Castle
- YHA Truleigh Hill
- YHA Whitby
- YHA Wye Valley
- YHA York

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The night walk was awesome. You would think it was creepy but it's not. You learn things about stars while having fun.

Pupil, Nawton Community Primary School

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yha.org.uk/school-trips



Multi- activity package

Our multi-activity package offers a mixture of adventurous and on-site activities that make the most of the great outdoors and the hostel locality, whilst offering something for all abilities.

Led by both YHA staff and specially selected external providers, we combine activities including team challenges and fire lighting with a spot of weaselling and climbing. Our residentials are packed with morale boosting, team building exercises that aim to provide a genuine sense of achievement and discovery whilst giving the adventure of a lifetime.

Activities include:

Guided walk, archery, abseiling, caving, canoeing, climbing, night hike, fire lighting, shelter building, coasteering.

Available at:

- YHA Castleton Losehill Hall
- YHA Chester Trafford Hall
- YHA Grinton Lodge
- YHA Ilam Hall
- YHA Langdale
- YHA Malham
- YHA Ravenstor
- YHA St Briavels Castle
- YHA Wye Valley

History package

Packed with opportunities to gain hands-on learning experiences in authentic historical settings, our history packages are designed to deliver inspiration and immersion as pupils discover Britain through the ages.

Fitting perfectly with the KS2 national curriculum, our packages bring to life major historical eras through hands-on activities. Pupils can travel back in time with our Roman, Saxon, Vikings, Medieval, and Invaders and Settlers packages. Discover Romans at YHA Eskdale, a short distance from Hardknot Roman Fort, where you can practise your marching drills on well preserved

Roman parade grounds. Explore the recreated Celtic village at YHA Castleton Losehill Hall and get hands-on with authentic weapons and shields. Become time detectives and trace a timeline of the city from past to present when you stay at YHA York. Or uncover hidden medieval secrets when you stay at YHA St Briavels Castle.

“

My favourite bit was when we made the Viking boats and went to raid the monastery to hunt for gold!

Pupil, St. Anselm's School

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Activities include:

Archery, guided walk, fire lighting, bread making, runes and jumbles, timeline challenge, local historical attractions, Roman siege, Roman marching and shield drills, Viking boat build challenge.

Available at:

- YHA Castleton Losehill Hall
- YHA St Briavels Castle
- YHA York





Geography package

Bring the great outdoors to life with our popular KS2 geography packages. Pupils have an ideal opportunity to carry out fieldwork covered in the national curriculum whilst really getting hands-on with the world around them.

Our locations are ideally suited for making the most of England's human and physical land forms. Our packages offer a host of educational activities including: detailed work on map skills, navigation work, GPS trails, stream studies and tourism.

You can be confident that our experienced staff will help you

pupils make the most of the fascinating geographical sites that are on our doorstep. Plus, thanks to the location of our hostels, no additional travel or transport costs will be required during your residential which helps make our packages even better value for money.

Available at:

- YHA Castleton Losehill Hall
- YHA Malham

Connecting to Nature package

Pupils get the chance to combine nature-based activities with ways to develop mindfulness skills in the great outdoors with this package designed to encourage students to embrace the natural environment.

Days are filled with exploration, nature-based treasure hunts, environment-inspired art and den building. Evenings are spent around the campfire, toasting marshmallows, telling stories and singing songs beneath the stars.

Activities include:

Campfire, environmental art, fire lighting, guided walks, mindfulness, nature craft, nature's mud kitchen, rock pooling, scavenger hunts, seashore safari, shelter building, stream or pond dipping, woodland explorers.

Available at:

- YHA Boggle Hole
- YHA Castleton Losehill Hall
- YHA Chester Trafford Hall
- YHA Grinton Lodge
- YHA Ilam Hall
- YHA Langdale
- YHA Ravenstor
- YHA Wye Valley





Bolt-on activities

Perfect for filling free time, our bolt-on activities offer challenging and rewarding activities that can easily be added on to your YHA stay. Available as half-day and full-day options, we offer an exciting range of activities designed to entertain and engage pupils of all ages and abilities.

YHA bolt-on

YHA delivered bolt-ons are available at all of our sites which offer YHA packages, so you can rest assured that you will have well trained and experienced staff engaging and challenging your pupils.

Activities include:

Team challenges, shelter building, archery, guided walk, fire lighting, and more.



yha.org.uk/school-trips



Adventure bolt-on

The British countryside offers a near endless number of opportunities to explore, discover new things and try unusual activities.

From fell walking in the Lake District to canoeing in the Peak District or climbing and abseiling in Wales, every outdoor activity you can think of – and many you can't – is catered for somewhere.

Activities include:

Climbing, abseiling, coastering, canoeing, kayaking, ghyll scrambling, mountain walk, and more.

Meet the activities manager

Our hostel staff are pretty special. With backgrounds ranging from education to hospitality, travel to outdoor adventure, each member of staff is as unique as our hostels. They do, however, have one thing in common: an absolute passion for helping young people discover skills and abilities they never knew they had.

Joel is the activities manager for YHA in the Forest of Dean



Can you tell us a bit about your background and experience with YHA?

I joined in 2019 as a team member at YHA Wye Valley. What's great about YHA is I was able to progress into the area I'm extremely interested in. I've learned new disciplines and hugely enjoy sharing these with young people and colleagues.



yha.org.uk/school-trips



What makes YHA the perfect base for school trips?

YHA locations are second to none – there really is something for everyone. At YHA Wye Valley you are overlooking the picturesque River Wye. At YHA Hawkshead you're right in the heart of the Lake District National Park. There's also such a lovely attitude to learning here.

The YHA team brings various techniques together to help motivate young people to try something new and immerse themselves in the residential experience.



What is your favourite part about YHA residentials?

The whole experience is vitally important for young people. From having time away from their family to finding new inspiration for activities to continue back at home – the end-to-end experiences is a joy to see. It's amazing to see young people grow and evolve over their time here and take home life lessons.



What is your favourite activity?

I've got to pick two: fencing and bushcraft. Fencing is agile, dramatic and funny. Bushcraft skills are exciting and earthy.

Actually... spy training too! I love the Alex Rider residential – watching kids become super spies is brilliant.



Anything else you want to share with teachers?

Just to say we're here for you! We'll take the pain out of planning with phone calls and lovely itineraries. I'll always make myself available – every step of the way.





Support for schools

Our unforgettable school residential inspire pupils to achieve extraordinary things while improving teamwork, communication, personal achievement and life skills.

Our residential create an inclusive space for young people to thrive through hands-on experiences in breath-taking places.

We believe every child should have the chance to connect to nature, the outdoors, culture and heritage. That's why we're committed to providing bursary support for eligible schools in an effort to break down barriers to participation and open up access equitably.

Eligibility criteria

If either of the below criteria apply to your school or college then you may be eligible for a bursary:

- Based in area of high social deprivation.
- Have high numbers (upwards of 30%) of children receiving pupil premium or free school meals.

For more information and to apply, please visit yha.org.uk/support-programmes/support-for-schools

Your say

The value of residentials shared by teachers

“ This was an experience that will never be forgotten by our pupils. They spent their entire time away with ear-to-ear smiles on their faces, making memories and making the most of experiences that have been missed out on for over a year.

St. Andrew's Primary School

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“

The team were amazing, so accommodating and they understood the importance of these trips for our pupils (many of whom had never been away from home overnight before as Year 6 trips were cancelled due to COVID-19) and they couldn't have done more for us. Thank you.

David Ross Educational Trust

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“

The children gain valuable experience and life-skills during these visits, things that cannot easily be delivered in the school setting: extracting your friend from a muddy ditch, lending support to a less than enthusiastic member of the class or trying to remember your way around an unfamiliar setting. A visit in the winter months creates a reservoir of memories that will stay with the children for the rest of their lives.

St Wilfrid's CE Primary School

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Keep up to date

Make sure you never miss out on our latest updates by signing up to our newsletter. Visit yha.org.uk/group-bookings/school-trips#sign-up

Enriching the lives of young people since 1930

Our friendly and knowledgeable team are here to help with every aspect of your residential experience, from finding the perfect National Curriculum linked activities in the best YHA accommodation, to arranging bursary support, and ultimately making sure you have everything you need to enjoy an inspirational and unforgettable school residential.

Get in touch

call: 01629 592 637

visit: yha.org.uk/group-bookings

email: groupreservations@yha.org.uk

We are YHA.

We transform young lives forever through travel and real adventure.

Because where you go changes who you become.

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Dimple Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, DE4 3YH

Company No. 282555

Reg. Charity No. 306122