

## To Inspire and Educate for Life

At Droxford Junior School we believe in developing 'powerful learners': children who are collaborative, resilient, resourceful and reflective. Our Droxford 'Keys for Success' are embedded in residential visits – ensuring consistency from school to offsite visits. Often those who struggle to achieve in the constraints of a classroom environment achieve above and beyond during learning away from school. The 'I can' mindset when a child reaches the top of a climbing wall or canoes in a straight line for the first time is transferred back to the classroom, bringing a more positive learning attitude with it.



## Peace of Mind

We plan every offsite visit in accordance with Hampshire County Council guidance. Thorough pre visits and risk assessments are undertaken and county approval procedures are strictly adhered to.



## Keeping a balance - Cost versus Educational Value

We are always aware of the cost implications of these visits. During planning and booking we strive for the best value for money. We are committed to ensuring a clear purpose and value to every trip and so we work hard to make sure as many pupils attend as possible, working with parents to remove obstacles to participation whether financial, social or psychological.



# Residential Visits



At Droxford we strongly believe in the educational value of residential visits for our pupils. We have a programme that builds progression year on year during their time at our school in terms of geographical distance, length of time away and skills and experiences.

Whilst residential visits are fun, they are also vitally important learning environments; not only in life skills and fieldwork. Where better to raise self-esteem; improve communication skills; develop teamwork; demonstrate independence; build empathy with others than by participating in challenging activities beyond the classroom?



"Children have a thirst for adventure and challenge, even from their first efforts to crawl and walk. They benefit from real life 'hands on' experiences: when they can see, hear, touch and explore the world around them and have opportunities to challenge themselves."



### Year 3

#### One night camp in the school grounds

For many children this is a first night away from family and/or their first time camping. For all, it takes place in a familiar setting; run by teachers who know and understand them well. It's a stepping stone towards more later. Children have to work as a team: they erect their tents; cooperate in the confines of a small tent. They show independence by organising themselves overnight. The next day is spent away from the classroom but close to home investigating the habitats on the South



### Year 5

#### Three nights at Fairthorne Manor, Curdridge

Whilst Fairthorne Manor is only a few miles away, the opportunities and experiences add to the children's growing skills set. This is the only residential where we offer watersports – including sailing, kayaking, canoeing and raft building. Children are challenged in activities and also have to extend their growing independence and organisation skills to cope and plan for numerous occasions of wet clothing! During their visit children are encouraged to keep a simple diary. On return to school, they spend a week making a keepsake folder of their visit - a great reminder of their visit and an opportunity to use skills in art, ICT and literacy.



### Year 4

#### Two nights at Runways End, Farnborough

An hour from school, children, now a year older, increase their distance from the familiar. They experience many personal challenges – from climbing to archery, rifle shooting to caving, orienteering to low ropes – taught by centre instructors. Runways End is the only location where we

cater for ourselves and children are on rotas to complete the 'chores'. Helping prepare meals, sweeping the dining hall, washing up and making their own lunches all build on life skills in a secure, well managed environment.



### Year 6

#### Four nights at Calshot Activity Centre, Southampton

Our final residential visit takes place at this unique site on Southampton Water, with the New Forest on the doorstep. The focus is split between activities and fieldwork which is directly linked to the science, geography and history curriculum back at school. The children also have a chance to try a new activities sheltered from the elements of November weather. They can ski on a dry ski slope; cycle on a velodrome; test their skills at high ropes and also do activities they have met before on previous trips - but this time higher or further.

