

ORKNEY ISLANDS COUNCIL



OUTDOOR EDUCATION
REPORT
2022

Learning Through Adventure





OUTDOOR EDUCATION REPORT 2022



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OVERVIEW

Outdoor Programmes in 2022

- Information sent to participating schools in October 2021.
- 3 Outdoor Education Programmes offered to P6, P7 and S2 participants including additional cancelled programmes from 2020-21.
- Pre-programme meetings with schools were completed via TEAMS.
- Outdoor Education provision offered for 88 days during the summer and autumn school term time.
- 3 instructors working with up to 24 participants each day.
- All pre-existing Covid-19 restrictions were lifted in April 2022. A focus on hand hygiene and awareness of signs and symptoms was continued.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMME 2022

PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Preparation for the 2022 Outdoor Education Programme started in September 2021. The design of the 2022 programme took into consideration the outstanding number of P7 aged participants, who (due to COVID-19 cancellations) had not received any Outdoor Education activity over the past 2 years.

To address this, we additionally offered a Primary 7 Hoy Residential Programme alongside the existing Primary 6 and Secondary 2 Outdoor Education Programmes.

All Programme details, information sheets, costs and dates were sent to participating schools no later than October 2021.

The Outdoor Education Advisor followed up the information sent to participating schools with a pre-programme TEAMS meeting with the school Head or Group Leader in March 2022. The meeting included confirmation of the programme details and logistics including participant numbers, staffing, catering, transport, activities and programme outcomes.

The Primary 7 and Secondary 2 Hoy Residential Outdoor Education Programmes were offered between the 19 April and 30 June 2022 (Summer School Term) and all Primary 6 In-School Outdoor Education Programmes were offered between 16 August and 5 October 2022 (Autumn School Term).

In total this offered 88 days of activity provision with up to 3 instructors working with up to 24 participants each day during the programme period.

COVID-19 AWARENESS AND MANAGEMENT

During the planning period and in the lead up to the start of the 2022 Outdoor Education Programme there was continued uncertainty and ongoing group leader concern regarding the restrictions still in place to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

All restrictions which could have affected a residential programme were lifted in April 2022. A clear protocol discussed with schools and instructors included the provision for hand hygiene, making participants aware of the signs and symptoms, group meetings preferably taking place outdoors and a planned and robust sending home procedure in the event of an individual or group affected by COVID-19.

OVERVIEW

Programmes Offered in 2022

Primary 7 Hoy Residential

- 4-5 day activity programme, up to 9 half day activities.



Primary 6 In-School Activities

- 3 day activity programme, up to 6 half day activities.



Secondary 2 Hoy Residential

- 2.5 day activity programme, 2 half day activities, 1 full day journeying and overnight camp.



OUTDOOR EDUCATION PROGRAMMES OFFERED

P7 Outdoor Education Hoy Residential Programme

A 4 or 5 day residential programme based from the Hoy Centre was offered to schools during the summer school term for Primary 7 aged pupils who had not taken part in any outdoor programme or activity due to the COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent shutdown of the services and facilities during 2020 and 2021.

The residential programme involved a wide range of half day outdoor activities on both land and water and the opportunity to live and work together in a social group based at the Hoy Centre. All participants completed an activity review sheet for each activity, were offered an activity diary to fill in during their programme, and received a NOLA Certificate of Completion.

S2 Outdoor Education Hoy Residential Programme

A 2.5 or 3 day residential programme based from the Hoy Centre was offered during the summer school term. The programme offered a number of half day activity options, a full day activity incorporating a journey, and a night camping at Rackwick.

The journeying and overnight camp element of the programme gives participants the opportunity to learn the skills required for the Expedition section of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award which is offered to participants at Secondary 3. For many, this is the final opportunity during their school years to take part in an outdoor education and residential programme.

All participants completed an activity review sheet for each activity and received a NOLA Certificate of Completion.

P6 Outdoor Education In-School Activity Programme

A 3 day in-school outdoor education programme offered to all P6 pupils during the summer and autumn school term.

The programme consists of six or more activities on land and water which aims to develop and nurture both physical and emotional skills including confidence, communication, trust and teamwork.

The programme is offered to all Primary schools within Orkney within the normal school day. For many smaller schools there is the opportunity to work together with other schools on the same programme.

All participants completed an activity review sheet for each activity and received a NOLA Certificate of Completion.

OVERVIEW

Activities Offered

- Over 18 activities available during the Outdoor Education Programmes on Hoy in 2022.
- Select activities were chosen and offered to Primary Schools during the Primary 6 in-school Activity Programme.



ACTIVITIES OFFERED IN 2022

A wide range of outdoor adventure activities were offered throughout the April to October period.

With all outdoor equipment being based at the Hoy Centre it meant that the residential programmes could be flexible in their choice of activities to suit the group and the environmental conditions.

Activities offered to the primary 6 in-school Activity Programmes were carefully chosen on the basis of them being easily set up, managed and efficiently transported between schools and stored within the trailers and minibuses available.

The following activities were available to all residential programmes based from the Hoy Centre between April to June:

Abseiling	Climbing Tower
Hill / Coastal Walking	Orienteering
Bushcraft	Problem Solving / Team Games
Archery	Camping
Gorge Walking	Cycling
Cuillag Challenge Walk	Tyrolean Traverse
Canoeing	Kayaking (sit on / In)
Raft Building	Coasteering
Snorkelling	Paddleboarding

The following activities were available to the Primary 6 in-school Activity Programmes between June and October (including 3 day visits to outer isles schools):

Archery	Climbing Tower
Bushcraft	Problem Solving / Team Games
Canoeing	Kayak (sit on)
Raft Building	Paddleboarding
Orienteering	

OVERVIEW

Equipment Management, Minibuses and Trailers

- All equipment relocated to Hoy Centre Containers.
- Birsay Centre storage container used during August to October Schools Programme.
- 3 minibuses.
- 7 equipment trailers.



OUTDOOR EQUIPMENT MANAGEMENT

For the 2022 Outdoor Education programme a new strategy was adopted with regard to mobile storage, management and transporting of outdoor equipment. This change was due to different location bases being used on Hoy and visits to nearly every school on the Orkney mainland and Outer Isles.

During the early months of 2022 three equipment storage containers and all outdoor equipment were returned and re-established at the Hoy Centre. An additional single storage container was left at the Birsay Outdoor Centre along with a caged drying area which would be used by instructors from August onwards once the Outdoor Education Programme became mobile.

All outdoor equipment was put through an annual check tested and updated within the central inventory managed by the Outdoor Education Advisor. New shelving, racking and efficient use of space was re-created within all the storage containers in readiness for use during the 2022 season.

During the Primary 6 in-school Outdoor Education Programme all necessary equipment was relocated to the Birsay Outdoor Centre storage container and within the 3 minibuses and 2 box trailers in use. This solution offered a mobile equipment storage system when visiting primary schools during the autumn term period.

MINIBUSES AND TRAILERS

The 2022 programmes made regular use of all 3 minibuses and the 7 equipment trailers available. At regular periods throughout the year all vehicles had a 3 monthly safety check, were annually serviced and were regularly cleaned by all staff.

It is to be noted that Outdoor Education only has allocation for 2 vehicles and yet we are regularly needing to use 3 vehicles to transport passengers, equipment and tow trailers to the wide range of outdoor venues and locations used throughout Orkney during the April to October period.

Trailer maintenance is completed on an annual basis by the Outdoor Education Advisor. A full service and thorough 'take apart' inspection is completed by Orkney Motors every other year.

It is anticipated that in 2023 there will be a requirement for 2 minibuses and 2 trailers needing replacement.

OVERVIEW

Instructors and Staffing

- Instructor Contract awarded to Adelong Training.
- 88 Days of Activity Instruction.
- Maximum of 3 Contract Instructors per Programme.
- 11 Contract Instructors worked on programme in 2022.
- 11 Instructor Training Days were offered by Outdoor Education Advisor.



INSTRUCTORS AND STAFFING

Having high quality instructors who possess the required skill-set of qualifications, experience and characteristics is undoubtedly one of the most important aspects to the successful and positive outcome of each programme offered to schools.

In order to maintain and ensure a high level of provision is offered to schools, the model chosen to source staff is through an Orkney Islands Council tender contract process. In 2022 the contract was awarded to Adelong Training.

The instructor contract included up to 3 staff working throughout the programme. Each instructor was required to work a minimum of 15 days and would possess the required outdoor qualifications, experience and a 'B' or 'D1' type driving license. Each instructor would receive 2 days of staff training and induction at the start of their contract and work 5 days per week, up to 8.5 hours per day, plus additional overnight camps.

Included in the staffing contract was accommodation in either the Rackwick Outdoor Centre (during the summer school term) when working with Hoy residential based programmes, or at Birsay Outdoor Centre (during the autumn school term) whilst working in schools. Alternative self-catering accommodation was sought whilst visiting Outer Isles schools.

In total there were 4 male and 7 female contract instructors employed in 2022. Of these, there were 4 returning instructors from last year.

On a day to day basis, the OIC Outdoor Education Advisor managed, trained and actively supported the contract instructor team. This included leading staff meetings, managing equipment overseeing transport logistics and producing activity programmes.

During the programme period additional requirements included completing staff observation reports, overseeing OIC in-house training / assessments and ensuring all operating procedures and risk assessments were up-to-date.

Other key staff involved in the smooth running of the Outdoor Education Programmes in 2022 included the Centre Wardens based at the Hoy Centre and Birsay Outdoor Centre, the office administration support staff based in OIC offices in Kirkwall and the catering team at Stromness Academy.

OVERVIEW

D of E Award and Visit Policy

- Expedition Leader Training offered to School Leaders by Outdoor Education Advisor.
- Expedition Training and Assessment took place at Bronze, Silver and Gold Level in 2022.
- 2022 OIC Visit Policy was updated to version 4.
- EVOLVEGo app. was offered for use with OIC I.T. issued mobile devices.
- Continued training and support for all Users and Establishments who offer visits outside their establishments.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD EXPEDITIONS

Ongoing support for the Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions within Orkney includes assistance by the Outdoor Education Advisor. During 2022

Assistance was offered to existing volunteers and new group leaders in the form of offering walking leader training and update sessions. The training offered comprised a mix of practical indoor and outdoor activities which covered the key expedition modules required for expedition leaders to train participants.

The training and assessment of participants for the Bronze, Silver and Gold Expedition sections (on foot or by bike) were completed by leaders within schools with assistance and direction from the D of E Manager and Outdoor Education Advisor.

It is hoped that there will be a resurgence and further request for expedition skills training for both leaders and participants at Bronze, Silver and Gold Expedition during 2023 and participant numbers and capacity can steadily increase within each school based unit.

2022 VISIT POLICY

The Visit Policy continues to be updated and managed by the Outdoor Education Advisor, the Office Manager with support from an administration Staff member in 2022.

The 2022 Visit Policy has been updated to version 4 with key changes to nursery leader to child ratios, wording changes to emergency forms, the use of mobile devices whilst on visits and the use of the new 'EVOLVEGo' application.

Training for practitioners, leaders, teachers, and headteachers has been ongoing throughout the year. Training for new users includes the use of a You-Tube training video produced by the Outdoor Education Advisor in late 2021.

The inclusion of the new EVOLVE-Go mobile application is now available for users who have access to an 'OIC I.T. issued' mobile device. The web based application will allow registered users to input 'Local Area Visit' data whilst away from an OIC desk based computer. The mobile application also offers links to important emergency contacts and incident management procedures.

OVERVIEW

AAALA and Facebook Page

- 1 Year License Awarded to OIC in 2022.
- 1 Inspector Visit during the activity programme in September 2022.
- Daily diary of information and pictures added to the OIC Outdoor Education Facebook Page.
- 1101 Facebook Page followers.



ADVENTURE ACTIVITY LICENSE AUTHORITY

The 1 year Adventure Activity License awarded to Orkney Islands Council in September 2021 covered all outdoor adventure activity offered by Outdoor Education including all Duke of Edinburgh Expeditions.

In April 2022 a new license application was submitted (with accompanying electronic records and documentation) to the H.S.E. Licensing Authority. The application was approved pending a license inspector visit which took place in September 2022.

The License Inspector visit included the observation of a daily staff meeting, discussing activity safety and equipment use with instructors and safety management protocols with OIC Line Managers. The Inspector observed an outdoor climbing Tower activity at K.G.S. and a Raft Building activity at Scapa pier. The license inspection outcome was successful, with no additional requirements.

The outcome of the application and follow up inspection was a 1 year License awarded to Orkney Islands Council up until October 2023.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION FACEBOOK PAGE

Relevant activity news and information was added to the Outdoor Education Facebook page by the Outdoor Education Advisor on a daily basis throughout the activity period.

Each daily post showed a summary of the activities offered, the school attending and colour photographs of the participants taking part. To keep a track of the activities offered, each post was numbered numerically.

In 2022 there were 93 activity posts added and In total to date, there are 1101 followers of the page. There was a single day peak of 695 people who were reached and 301 people engaged with likes or comments given.

Many of the people engaged and following (78% female, 22% male) are Orkney based and related to participants who have previously or are currently attending an Outdoor Education Programme.





PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS AND GROUPS

The following schools and groups participated in a wide variety of Outdoor Education and Activity programmes during 2022:

Primary 7 Hoy Residential Programme (April-June) COVID-19 Catch-up

Hope Primary School
 Burray Primary School
 Stronsay Junior High School
 Firth Primary School
 Evie Primary School
 North Walls Primary School
 Stromness Primary School
 St Andrews Primary

Secondary 2 Hoy Residential Programme (May-June)

Stromness Academy
 Stronsay Junior High School
 Kirkwall Grammar School

Primary 6 In-School Activity Programme (June), COVID-19 Catch-up

Westray Junior High School	P4-6 S2
Papa Westray Primary School	P4-6
St Andrews Primary School	
Glaitness Primary School	
Dounby Primary School	
North Walls Primary School	P4-7
Shapinsay Primary School	P5-7

Primary 6 In-School Activity Programme (August-October)

Stromness Primary School	
Papdale Primary School	
Glaitness Primary School	
St Andrews Primary	
Hope Primary School	
Burray Primary School	
Sanday Junior High School	
Stronsay Junior High School	P7-7 S2-3
Dounby Primary School	
Firth Primary School	
Evie Primary School	
Rousay Primary School	P6-7
Orphir Primary School	
Stenness Primary School	
Shapinsay Primary School	P3-7

Duke Of Edinburgh Expeditions

Sanday D of E Award Group	KGS D of E Award Group
Strom Academy D of E Award Group	



STATISTICAL SUMMARY 2022

Total activity days completed	88 days
Total activity day places used	1691 day places
Participant day places unused / not filled	120 day places
Total individual participants offered activity	595 participants
<i>Comprising:</i>	
<i>Total Primary 7 aged participants engaged</i>	<i>100 participants</i>
<i>Total Secondary 2 aged participants engaged</i>	<i>158 participants</i>
<i>Total Primary 6 aged participants engaged</i>	<i>337 participants</i>
Total visiting staff on residential programme	30 visiting staff
Total visiting staff on in-school programme	9 school staff
Total islands visited (in-school programme)	6 outer islands
Total number of overnight camping nights	8 nights
Total Hoy Residential nights completed	29 nights
Maximum staff / instructors on programme	4 staff
Total instructor induction / training days	11 days
Maximum number of activity groups per day	3 groups
Total vehicles / minibuses on programme	3 vehicles
Total number of trailers used on programme	7 trailers

APPENDIX 1

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

HOY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMMES

There was a total of **208 responses** to the Questionnaire offered to participants at the end of their Hoy residential programme. The first 8 questions required them to circle the most appropriate answer.

1) Never 2) Some of The Time 3) Most of The Time 4) A Lot of The Time 5) All The Time

Below are the questions and responses are given in percentages:

I looked forward to trying new activities

1	2	3	4	5
0%	4.3%	18.3%	44.7%	32.7%

I enjoyed spending time outdoors

1	2	3	4	5
0.5%	3.4%	20.6%	43.2%	32.2%

The instructors were friendly and helpful

1	2	3	4	5
0%	3.4%	15%	26.1%	55.5%

I felt safe and able to trust others

1	2	3	4	5
1%	2%	19%	49%	29%

I learnt new skills whilst taking part

1	2	3	4	5
0.5%	5%	19.6%	39.4%	36.5%

I worked with others and solved simple problems

1	2	3	4	5
0.5%	2.5%	15%	27%	55%

I was able to share my opinion or feelings

1	2	3	4	5
1%	3%	15%	44%	27%

I would like to take part in more new activities

1	2	3	4	5
0%	2%	15%	27%	56%

APPENDIX 1

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED

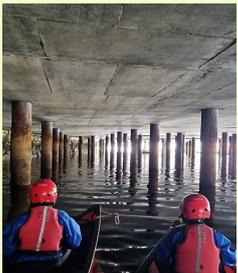
HOY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMMES

Question 9 asked which was their favourite, or most enjoyable activity.

Please bear in mind programmes differed in the activities offered, therefore the representation is not in relation to any one type of residential programmes offered. The top 3 activities are highlighted in red.

Favourite / Most Enjoyable Activity

Coasteering	51
Kayaking (sit on)	43
Gorge Walking	20
Bushcraft	18
Canoeing	17
Archery	16
Paddleboarding	10
Hill / Coastal Walking	10
Abseiling	9
Camping	4
Raft Building	3
Orienteering	2
Cycling	2
Problem Solving / Team Games	1



APPENDIX 1

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK CONTINUED

HOY RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMMES

Question 10 required the participant to describe their experience in 3 words. The following is a selection of their responses:

Entertaining	Survived	Adventure	Skills
Life	Caves	Rewarding	Awesome
Energetic	Crazy	Caterpillar	Memorable
Different	Scary	Soggy	Lifetime
Interesting	Bugs	Fulmar	Thrilling
Cow	Forest	Trees	Home
Mountains	Adrenaline	Remote	Healthy
Friendships	Alternative	Recommended	Not-Give-Up
Smiles	Helped	Muddy	Incredible
Nervous	Relaxing	Sunny	Exhausted
Soaked	Shivering	Rain	Energy
Eagle	Sore	Sleepy	Achievement
Different	Natural	Steep	Laughing
Splashing	Seals	Joyful	Windy
Relief	Quality	Chris	Challenging
Fantastic	Extraordinary	Cool	Exciting
Heather	Smelly	Eventful	Knowledge
Busy	Birds	Seaweed	History
Jellyfish	Safe	Sleepless	Fun
Meerkats	Friendly	Sociable	Again



APPENDIX 2

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK PRIMARY 6 IN-SCHOOL PROGRAMME

There were over 1800 individual activity sheets completed during the Primary 6 In-School Activity Programme by all participants that took part..

At the end of each 3 day activity programme, up to 8 A4 activity sheets (for each participant) were collated, combined and stapled together by the instructor.

The sheets were kept by the school for potential follow up activities in the classroom, by the teacher or for participants to take home along with the NOLA Award Certificate.

Each A4 activity sheet had an identical activity review section at the bottom of each sheet.

The activity review statements included:

- I enjoyed taking part in the activity
- I feel more confident about myself
- I solved problems and worked well with others in the group
- I listened to all safety instructions given by the instructor
- I would happily do the activity again

The statements were answered by circling the appropriate face, as shown below:



The information completed by the participant after each activity was reviewed by the instructors with the group and formed part of an instructor led review.

The activity review data completed by each participant was not collated, as it was personal to each individual and was not intended to be used for public feedback or be included in this report.



APPENDIX 3

TEACHER FEEDBACK RESULTS

There was a total of 8 feedback forms completed in 2022. The following 4 questions were asked:

1) Please rate the following 13 areas of the Outdoor Programme which were offered to your school?

AREA	% RANGE	AVERAGE
1 Activity Time Offered to School	85-100	Average 95
2 Dates Offered to School	68-100	Average 82
3 Pre-Activity Meeting with Outdoor Ed. Advisor	78-100	Average 85
4 Selection of Activities Offered	91-100	Average 97
5 Instructor Safety & Professionalism	86-100	Average 96
6 Management of Activity Equipment & Logistics	78-100	Average 88
7 Pupil Engagement in Activities	85-100	Average 95
8 Activity Relevance to Curriculum / Pupil Learning	74-100	Average 85
9 Activity Outcomes & Benefit to Pupils	92-100	Average 96
10 Evidence of Learning & Success by Pupils	81-100	Average 92
11 Pupil Engagement & Enjoyment	89-100	Average 96
12 Post Activity Follow Up & Feedback	70-100	Average 78
13 Overall Cost Effectiveness	75-100	Average 87

2) What were the most POSITIVE elements of the 2022 Outdoor Learning and Education Programme?

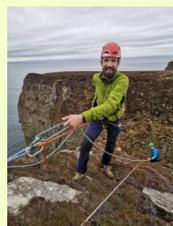
- ◆ A fantastic experience for the children which was made extra special as the composite class were able to participate together.
- ◆ It was great the participants were able to work independently and take responsibility for their own equipment.
- ◆ The pupils were able to easily engage with the different activities which were uniquely different and would not normally get the opportunity to do.
- ◆ It was great to see the participants bonding, maturing and realising that they needed to work together to achieve their collective goal.
- ◆ The activity format for this year was updated from previous years and it was refreshing to see something new in the programme.
- ◆ The instructors were attentive, patient and listened to the pupils. The friendship and bond I observed throughout the week between the instructors and pupils was a real bonus to a successful programme.
- ◆ The activities suited the school ground space which was used and it was great to see the local area being explored by the pupils.
- ◆ The activity programme at the school was very efficiently managed and set-up each morning. The instructor team were great with the pupils. It was great to see the pupils relaxed and having fun

3) If this type of programme was offered to the school again, what could be IMPROVED or INCLUDED in future years?

- It was a really busy programme. As visiting staff, we prepared all meals and this took up a great deal of time. I don't think this was a fault of the programme but the way we had organised the residential. We had a fairly big group and this made a big difference in terms of preparing food and washing up etc.
- Nothing, it all went well and was super organised with all pupils managing to have a go at all activities.
- The pre-programme meeting was a TEAMS meeting, which although went well, and all the information was covered, it would be better to be completed face to face with Chris next time.
- The residential programme was full of activity each day which gave the pupils little time to reflect on their achievements during the day. Shorter activity periods with more reflection time at the end of each day.
- The activity sheets given to each pupil at the end of each activity was a great idea and new addition to the Hoy programme. Unfortunately due to the programme being so close to the end of the school term we were unable to offer any constructive follow up. Would this be better off being completed whilst on Hoy?
- The weather during our activity programme was really bad and although we went outside and continued with the activity (to experience the elements!) I wonder if there were other more suitable activities in poor weather?

4) Please feel free to add any other Comments, Feedback or Suggestions to help us provide an Improved Service in future years?

- ◆ I think that I would suggest to the school that next year we do not try to complete the Dynamic Youth Award in such a short period of time. The whole experience of documenting the activities felt a little like being back at school. The certificate offered by Outdoor Education would be more than enough evidence that individuals took part.
- ◆ I would not want to miss out on this experience again in the future
- ◆ The staff were great with the pupils. I especially like the fact they were willing to see the pupils as individuals when there was a specific need within the group.
- ◆ The programme was flexible and fitted the needs of the participants.
- ◆ A well tried and tested activity programme (from last year) which met the Primary 6 pupil's needs without the need for school staff to have to be available. This made a big difference to us as we do not have additional staff to cover a split class.
- ◆ A big thanks to the instructors and Chris for offering a great activity programme within the school grounds.
- ◆ It was a relief to see the Primary 7 pupils get the offer of activity after the past 2 years of lockdown and cancellations. The class needed this to get back on track and start to believe in themselves again.



OVERVIEW

Future Plans

- 2023 is our 25th Birthday year!
- 3 Outdoor Education Programmes.
- 3 contract Instructors and the Outdoor Education Advisor.
- Use of Hoy Centre for all Residential Outdoor Education Programmes.
- Use of Rackwick and Birsay Centres for Instructor Accommodation.
- Use of Orkney schools for offering the Primary 6 in-school activity programme.
- In 2023 we will aim to offer 104 activity days to 571 participants totalling 1807 participant activity day places.



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2023

25 years and going strong! A milestone in Outdoor Education history will be made next year, as the outdoor services offered to Orkney schools will total 25 years of continuous support.

The 2023 Outdoor Education programme will aim to offer 2 Core and 1 new programme.

Primary 6 (Academic Year 2023)

3 Day - On-Site Activity Programme

NEW Primary 7 (Academic Year 2022)

4-5 Day - Hoy Residential Programme

Secondary 2 (Academic Year 2022)

2.5 to 3 Day - Hoy Residential Programme

All the above programmes will be staffed by up to 3 Contract instructors alongside the Outdoor Education Advisor.

The use of the Hoy Centre for all residential programmes will be a continued and positive step in offering all overnight residential accommodation and making the most out of Hoy's unique location in conjunction with a variety of and exclusive Outdoor Education activities.

The in-school activity programmes offered within the Orkney Mainland and Outer Isles will make use of both Primary and Secondary school locations and the local outdoor surroundings for activity and learning.

The use of both Rackwick Hostel and Birsay Hostel for instructor accommodation will continue to enhance and compliment the Outdoor Education programmes during 2023.

In 2023 we plan to offer 104 activity days to 571 participants totalling 1807 activity day places.

Participants will be given the opportunity to learn new skills, discover new places and find a sense of place within the unique Outdoor Environments on both land and water within Orkney.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION SUMMARY 2022

2022 was another busy year with Outdoor Education being offered to a wider age range of participants than in previous years. The added Primary 7 programmes offered (due to COVID-19 closures) were highly praised and well received by all schools who were affected.

The new format of offering the Primary 6 Outdoor Education in schools was logistically more complex, but offered a longer activity time for participants, a reduction in visiting staff commitment and lower participant costs. The programme will now be reviewed, further developed and embedded in future 'Core Provision' plans.

Contract instructors were of high quality and employed to the planned capacity with 55% of all activity days requiring 3 instructors working with maximum group sizes. The contract for next year's instructors will be on a similar basis, as used for the past 9 years.

Thanks go to all who have been part of the 2022 Outdoor Education Programme and we look forward to our 25th Year of offering Outdoor Education in Orkney next year.



Orkney Outdoor Education - Learning Through Adventure

For Further Information please Contact:

Chris Jex, Outdoor Education Advisor
Orkney Islands Council, School Place, Kirkwall,
Orkney, KW15 1NY
chris.jex@orkney.gov.uk
Office: 01856 873535 ext. 2434

