Be . Build . Become

'Encourage one another and build each other up.' Thessalonians 5:11

Year 6 Residential – Kilvrough Manor

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do educational visits only take place in the summer?
No. Educational visits take place throughout the academic year.

Outdoor education centres operate year-round and provide programmes that are adapted appropriately to the season. Activities may look different depending on weather and daylight hours, but they are equitable in quality, challenge and educational value.

2. Why does the school use Kilvrough?
The school has a long-standing partnership with Kilvrough Manor, one of Oxfordshire's outdoor education centres operated by Oxfordshire County Council.

We use Kilvrough because the nature and style of activities support the authentic outdoor education experience we wish to offer. The programme builds appropriately on the less rigorous Year 4 residential, developing independence, resilience, teamwork and challenge in preparation for secondary school.

3. When has the school booked Kilvrough trips to take place?
23rd–27th June 2025
13th–17th April 2026
18th–22nd January 2027
14th–18th February 2028
12th–16th March 2029
11th–15th March 2030
17th–21st March 2031

Visits take place across a range of months as outdoor education centres operate throughout the year.

4. What activities take place in winter/summer?
Throughout the year the centre plans watersport activities. Winter programmes are adapted to the season and may include canoeing on a disused canal (not open to boat traffic), climbing and abseiling, expedition and navigation challenges, woodland activities, team-building and survival skills.

In winter, children do not go bodyboarding or surfing in the sea. If weather and tides are appropriate in summer pupils may have the opportunity to participate in body boarding.

5. What happens if the weather is poor?
Activities only take place if instructors deem them safe.

If a planned activity cannot proceed due to weather conditions, it is replaced with an alternative of equal educational value. Outdoor education programmes are flexible and responsive rather than fixed.

6. What specialist equipment is provided?
Children will be provided with all necessary specialist outdoor equipment, including waterproofs, wellington boots, helmets and any required safety equipment such as buoyancy aids or climbing gear or where appropriate wetsuits.

Families will only need to provide the personal clothing listed on the kit list.

7. How many staff attend?
The school takes one adult for every 10 children.

Where there is a specific identified need, the school will liaise with the centre to arrange for an additional adult to attend.

8. Do parents attend?
No. The residential is staffed by school staff only.

This allows children to develop independence and confidence. Parents are encouraged to enjoy a week at home while we take good care of your children.

9. What coach company does the school use?
Transport for the trip is arranged and booked by the venue in line with required Oxfordshire County Council regulations.

Once at the centre, Oxfordshire Outdoors instructors transport groups to off-site activity locations using centre minibuses driven by qualified staff.

10. Does the coach stop on the way?
Yes. There is a scheduled toilet stop at services en route.

Pupils generally eat their packed lunch on arrival at Kilvrough.

11. What are the sleeping arrangements?
Kilvrough Manor has dormitories located on the upper floors.

Dormitories are single sex and typically accommodate between 6 and 10 pupils. There are separate toilet and shower facilities for boys and girls.

School staff sleep on the same floors as the children and remain on duty overnight.

12. What is the food like?
Food is hearty and designed to support active days outdoors.

Breakfast: cereal and toast
Lunch: sandwiches, crisps and fruit, supplemented with homemade cakes or cookies
Evening meal: a set meal each night eg: pasta, pizza or roast dinner.

Adaptations are made to meet dietary requirements and medical needs.

13. Are children allowed to bring phones?
No. Pupils are not permitted to bring electronic equipment such as mobile phones, tablets or smart devices.

14. Can we ring our child? Can they ring us?
Routine phone calls are not part of the programme.

It is natural to feel worried when your child is away. If there were any concern, illness or emergency, staff would contact you immediately.

If you do not hear from us, you can be confident that your child is safe, busy and well cared for.

15. How will the school communicate during the week?
When the coach arrives safely at Kilvrough, staff will contact school and confirmation of safe arrival will be communicated using the agreed platform (for example, text message, Threads or another messaging platform in use at that time).

Updates and photographs (where appropriate) will be shared throughout the week using the agreed school communication platform.

If there were any concerns regarding your child, school staff would contact you directly.

Further Information

For further information about the centre, facilities and outdoor education approach, parents are encouraged to refer directly to the Kilvrough website.