

# OVER THE WALL

**A charity providing residential activity camps for children and young people affected by serious and life-limiting illnesses.**

**12th Year 1999-2011**



## Parental Information

### *Who are we?*

We are a charity and part of the Association of Hole in the Wall Camps established after actor Paul Newman founded the first camp in the United States in 1988.

We have been running residential activity camps in the UK for over ten years. Our camps are FREE and are for children and young people aged between 8 and 17 affected by serious illness.

### *What are the medical criteria for children attending camp?*

- Diagnosis of a chronic, life-affecting or life-limiting illness although your child does not need to be on regular medication.
- For the Siblings camp, the young person has to have a sibling who fits the above criteria.
- It is essential that if your child is in a wheelchair he/she can weight-bear to transfer.

### *Are there any exclusions?*

Unfortunately we are unable to take children or young people with behavioural difficulties such as ADHD, or children with Cystic Fibrosis (due to infection risk). However we always aim to be as inclusive as possible and review each application on its individual merits. If you have any queries regarding eligibility it is best to give us a call to discuss what we can do.

### *So where does it all happen?*

We have camps in 3 locations:

- Tulliallan Castle in Scotland,
- Pioneer Centre, near Kidderminster in the Midlands, and
- Bryanston School in Dorset.

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## What will my child do at camp?

At camp we aim to offer a choice of creative and challenging activities such as:

- Swimming
- Arts and crafts
- Sports
- Climbing & Abseiling
- Music and Drama
- Horse riding
- Archery
- Evening Entertainment: A Disco and the opportunity to take part in the Campers' Talent Night!

## Children First

The children's abilities and medical conditions do not define them at camp: all activities are designed to be child-centered and are based on two key guiding principles: 'Challenge by Choice' and 'Therapeutic Recreation'.

'Challenge by choice' means each child chooses to what extent they participate in each activity and the challenge it offers. Children have the opportunity to try and achieve at new things in an environment that is positive and exciting and that celebrates all their achievements.

'Therapeutic Recreation' is a well-established method of planning and structuring a programme of activities at camp, where the activities and the way they are delivered are specifically designed to build confidence, self-esteem and independence.

## Where will my child sleep?

Your child's comfort is very important to us and they will either have their own room or will share with another child of the same gender and age group. The volunteers and staff sleep in nearby rooms, where at least two volunteers per group will be on call each night to provide reassurance.

## What food will be provided?

All meals and snacks will be provided and there will be a variety of food options at each meal time for your child to choose from. We cater for specific dietary needs and allergy requirements.

## Is it totally free of charge?

Everything at camp is provided free of charge.

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## Who looks after my child?

Over The Wall provide a 1:1 ratio of volunteers to campers, so every child is given full support and supervision around the clock. The volunteers give guidance, support, and encouragement to the children.

Our volunteers are fully vetted and trained and come from many different backgrounds including business, healthcare, teaching and students.

## What medical care is provided at Over the Wall?

Over The Wall provides 24 hour 'home from home' medical care at camp. We provide a specialist team of fully qualified paediatric nurses and doctors who will take care of your child's medical & health needs.

If your child needs to receive any medication whilst at camp, we require that you supply them with enough for 8 days.

All medications is stored safely and administered by the medical team therefore it is important that you specify exactly how much is to be given and when.

## What happens if there is a medical emergency?

In the event of a medical emergency, we will contact you as soon as possible. It is essential that you provide up to date emergency contact details.

All medical professionals are rehearsed in camp emergency procedures and are extremely skilled at dealing with any situation that may arise.

## Transport

We provide coach and minibus transport from key locations and can provide other assistance with transport if needed.

## How do I get in contact?

You can get further information about Over the Wall, together with online camp application forms, on our website at [www.otw.org.uk](http://www.otw.org.uk).

Alternatively, you can either give us a call on **02392 477110** or write to us at the address below. Our staff will be more than happy to help with any queries or questions you may have.

*We look forward to hearing from you*



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Telephone 02392 477110 [www.otw.org.uk](http://www.otw.org.uk)

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