

The National Improvement Framework (2016) states that, "Parental and family engagement is a key factor in helping all children achieve the highest standards whilst reducing inequity and closing the attainment gap."

"On average, pupils who participate in **adventure learning interventions** make approximately four additional months' progress over the course of a year. There is also evidence of an impact on non-cognitive outcomes such as self-confidence." (Education Endowment Foundation)

As a new addition to its residential experiences, **Ardentinny Outdoor Centre** now offers schools a bespoke, values-based programme of adventure learning for children, their families and staff. The programme is grounded in research and has been designed specifically around the [Interventions for Equity Framework](#) concentrating on the key priorities of **Improving health and wellbeing** and **Improving employability skills and school leaver destinations**.



The primary lever for change is Families and Communities with planned interventions focusing on:

Social & emotional wellbeing:

We provide opportunities for children and young people to enhance social communication skills, make new friendships, develop a growth mindset, increase their self-efficacy, resilience and self-esteem, become more independent, take on responsibilities and perhaps most importantly, gain a true and long-lasting sense of personal achievement.

"The change in children's attitude and behaviour is a direct impact from the team encouragement and activities they take part in." (Teacher feedback on residential week at Ardentinny)

Promoting healthy lifestyles & tackling inequalities:

A daily programme of challenging adventure activities in the local environment, a healthy home-cooked diet of wholesome nutritious food and a great night's sleep! ALL children reap the benefits of a summer holiday.

"Increasing levels of physical activity and healthy eating are important in tackling health inequalities." (Education Scotland)

Employability & skills development:

By engaging in the programme, children and young people enhance and develop transferable life-skills including leadership, communication, problem solving, teamwork, organisation, decision-making.

"Opportunities to carry out different activities and roles in a variety of settings have enabled me to identify my achievements, skills and areas for development. This will help me to prepare for the next stage in my life and learning." (HWB 2-19a)

Engaging families:

By facing challenges and overcoming fears together, relationships between child/parent, child/child, child/teacher, teacher/parent are strengthened and deepened; staff gain a better understanding of family circumstances; the shared learning experiences taking place in a new environment allow parents to see their children flourish and celebrate their achievements together.

"Responsibility for domestic routines was a positive experience and parents have commented favourably." (Teacher feedback on stay at Ardentinny)

Working with partners to explore innovative approaches to tackling inequity:

Staff at Ardentinny will work in partnership with schools and families from the rationale and planning stage through to meaningful evaluation and importantly, to monitor and gather evidence of the impact of the Adventure Learning experience.

How much will this cost?

There are 2 ways you can take part in the activities overleaf. One way is a Sunday to Friday week during the summer. The other is by having 3 weekends at the centre during the school year, Friday to Sunday.

The Sunday to Friday activity week costs £350 per person attending.

The Friday to Sunday weekend costs £125 per person attending if you book all 3 weekends. If you can only commit to one weekend, the cost is £140 per person attending.

Typically, what group size is needed?

We can take up to 65 people but the practical maximum will depend on the mix of the group. The typical group size is around 50 people. This number helps reduce the per head cost for a bus to take your group from your school to Ardentinny and back. We will, though, consider a smaller group size than 50, so please give us a call to discuss. We may be able to help small groups with our minibuses.

What does a bus cost?

That depends on where your school is located but to give you an idea, a party of 50 coming from around the Glasgow area would need a coach that would cost about £800 for the return trip. If you're nearer it will be less, if further away it may be more.

Are there any extras?

No, all costs are included in the activity week or weekend. We do have a small tuck shop which can be used if you wish but other than that, everything is included.

How could we fund this kind of trip if it includes children, teachers and parents?

We have focussed the activity week on the key aims of the Pupil Equity Fund so it could all be funded from that. However, some schools have already said they feel it's good for those attending to contribute to the cost, but that's up to you.

As an example, though, if you wanted to ask everyone to contribute, say, £25, then that would probably cover all your transport costs and defray the cost to your Pupil Equity Fund allocation. The amount is entirely up to you and it could be more or nothing at all.

What's our next step?

Give us a call and we'll talk you through everything. For more information on the centre, have a look at our website:

www.ardentinnycentre.org.uk

You can see all that we do here and we have a plan showing the sleeping arrangements available. If it's not clear, please call and ask us.

Ardentinny Outdoor Education Centre

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Ardentinny Centre Aspire and Achieve

