

CHILDREN AT HIGH HOUSE

29/06/2009

Definition

Anyone visiting High House who is under the age of 18 is considered to be a child. This is in line with the K Fellfarers Membership Policy which does not allow under-18s to be members or visit High House unaccompanied by an adult.

Purpose

The purpose of this guideline is to explain to those responsible for children what to expect when visiting High House, and to provide advice and guidance to all those staying at High House whenever children are present.

General Points

Adults can easily note the differences between High House and home, and can react accordingly. It is much more difficult for children, especially young ones, for whom this may well be a new environment, and who are unlikely to be able to adapt their behaviour to the different environment easily, if at all. It is not reasonably practicable for K Fellfarers to operate High House as if it was a domestic house, and therefore the accommodation and facilities available differ from those found in homes. It is not reasonable to expect members and their guests to modify their normal behaviour at High House as soon as they are made aware that a child is present. Parents or guardians should be aware of these differences and their potential implications for children. They must be responsible for the care and control of their charges and it is in this context that parents should take note of the following:

General Safety Considerations

- The standards of hygiene and cleanliness may be less than at home.
- The stairwell may be dark, and floors and stairs may be slippery when wet.
- There are no guardrails on the stairs.
- There are no covers on electrical sockets.
- The heating stoves are extremely hot when lit, and there are no fire guards.
- Members may walk about with hot-kettles and pans, and they may not expect small children to run into them.
- Members are likely to leave hot drinks in mugs and cold drinks in glasses on the floor.
- Members are likely to come in late, after some children have gone to bed and they cannot reasonably be expected to modify their level of speech (or content!).
- Members manoeuvring in the sometimes congested car park drive on the assumption that adults will keep out of their way and they will not expect the presence of small children.

Accommodation

The sleeping accommodation at High House is provided by individual beds, two-tier bunks and an alpine-style sleeping platform in the members room (i.e. a wide bunk sleeping several people). The mens dormitory sleeps 18, the ladies sleeps 8 and the members room 10. There is no family room, although at members weekends the members room is typically used by families. There is no right to insist on this.

On any occasion when a parent or adult is accompanied by children they should be mindful of the need to safeguard children by ensuring that the sleeping arrangements are appropriate for the children and for the needs of the other members and their guests at High House. Ultimately, if a parent is with their child, or an adult who is in loco parentis is with a child, they can decide whether they are satisfied and happy with the sleeping arrangements available for the children for whom they are responsible. Parents need to bear in mind that there may well be insufficient appropriate accommodation at High House and that they may need to review their plans.

In circumstances where adults wish to take children for whom they do not have parental responsibility to High House, they should get permission from the children's parents using the parental consent form. A copy of the consent form should also be given to the parent. The consent form enables parents to provide medical details in an emergency and also outlines to parents the shared nature of accommodation at High House.

PARENTAL CONSENT FORM FOR ADULTS ACTING IN LOCO PARENTIS AT HIGH HOUSE

I give consent for my child/children (full names):

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.....

to accompany (name of adult* and his/her family):

.....
.....

to High House, Seathwaite, Borrowdale for the following periods:

Dates: From to

From to

From to

From to

Medical, dietary and other specific information:

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.....

1. I have received a copy of the "Children at High House" guideline and understand that High House has communal facilities and these include communal sleeping arrangements.
2. I understand that the above adult will endeavour to ensure that appropriate sleeping accommodation will be arranged for my child with regard to its age and sex and with regard to the needs of other members present.
3. In the event of illness or an accident requiring emergency hospital treatment, I authorise the adult named on this form to sign on my behalf any written form of consent required by the hospital authorities, if the delay required to obtain my signature is considered inadvisable by the doctor or surgeon concerned.

Signed: (parent)

Date: Address:

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.....
.....

Tel: Mobile:

Signed: Date:

(*adult in loco parentis as above)

This form must be completed in duplicate and signed by both parties and a copy given to the adult acting in loco parentis before the visit to High House takes place.