

Teacher Group Leader Fact Sheet

Quick Facts

- Every Aqua Park session is Lifeguarded by RLSS Qualified Lifeguards in a ratio of no more than 1 Lifeguard to 30 pupils.
- The park has Lifeguards stationed out on the obstacles to help and support pupils using the park, and we have a shore-based Lifeguard, so immediate assistance is always available.
- If the school party that you are bringing consists of children over the age of 8 years, then the teaching staff do not have to go onto the park with them.
- If the school party consists of children between 6 and 8 years then they need to be accompanied on the park in a ratio of 1 to 3.
- Pupils must be able to swim 25 meters unaided and be over 1.2 meters tall.
- You will receive 1 free ticket per 10 pupil tickets bought, to assist with accompanying pupils on the park.
- If your school is booking an exclusive session on the park and there is a legitimate reason why some members of your group can't be photographed, then our Photographer can be withdrawn from the park. Otherwise our terms and conditions give us permission to take photographs of the group and potentially utilise the images on our website.
- Sessions last for 1 hour, including a 10-minute safety briefing and 50 minutes on the park. The experience usually takes 2.5 hours with changing times.
- Pupils should prepare for a day out at the beach, bringing suitable swimwear and a towel or changing robe. There are large male and female changing rooms but no private cubicles available.

Learning Objectives

It goes without saying that you and your students want to come and spend a session on the Aqua Park as part of the healthy, active lives that we wish to encourage our young people to lead, but how does that tie in with your curriculum?

We have identified the four main areas as listed below and suggest that you plan for your visit by preparing the children in school / college first as to what they can expect.

Our sites are big enough for your students to sit outside and eat their packed lunches after their activity session to discuss their learning!

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Visiting our website will give your students a flavour of the different obstacles and challenges they will face as they complete their session at the Aqua Park. Maybe your students are thrilled at the prospect of climbing the tallest obstacles..... but maybe for some of them a visit will involve challenging their fears.

The obstacle course holds a variety of differing challenges. Some obstacles will present more of a challenge to individuals than others. For example, some of the climbing towers rely more on upper body strength, some of the obstacles rely more on balance.

We suggest that you ask a group of 4 students to buddy-up and work their way around the park together – this will give them the opportunity to both be helped, or to help, another person during the 50-minute session. A preliminary session in school / college beforehand could involve identifying the phrases that could be used to motivate a peer or to encourage a friend to tackle that obstacle that moves them out of their confidence zone.

If they are working as part of a team and sticking together, then they will end up going at the pace of the slowest of the 4 of them to stay together.

There should be opportunities to trust one another and respect each other's differing abilities, or skills. For example, some students may not wish to do the jump from the tallest platform, but take the slide down.

Some students may be able to work up to doing the jump, by acclimatising themselves on the slide first.

Neither is right or wrong, as individuals will have differing levels of water confidence when they commence the activity.

Photography

Our busy team of photographers work outside in all weathers. Taking great shots in the rain can be challenging.

Lighting is one of our biggest challenges, getting good lighting on the subjects faces, on the shore side photographs is important.

For our action shots our photographers go out onto the park in a Pedalo, or on a paddleboard to take close up action shots.

The photographs that sell the best on our website are usually the shore-based ones, as people are likely to be with the whole group that they came with, rather than spread out across the park. That is the memory that most of our customers want. We hope that anyone who has bought an image of their Aqua Park visit will share it on social media.

We use video on our website as the most effective way of explaining what will happen to our customers.

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Environmentalists

We aim to make as little negative effect on our surrounding environment as possible.

We do this by litter picking the site at the end of the day when our customers have left.

We also change and improve our practices when we can. For example: we used to issue wrist bands to people to show that they had paid to use the park. But when our customers started dropping them as litter onsite, we moved to issuing a ticket, which our team collect as they go through the barrier onto the park.

We suggest you encourage your students to consider their journey through the Aqua Park from an environmental perspective. If you have proposals to put to us afterwards on how we could improve our environmental impact on the site, we'd love to hear from you!

The activity is cleared away completely at the end of each summer season and the water returns to how it was.

When the park goes out onto the water in spring the birds quickly get used to it being there again. A large number of ducks and geese will enjoy sitting on it overnight when all of our customers have gone home.

There is plenty more to discover at the water side either before or after your session time. Anglian Water are our landlords at Rutland therefore we suggest that before a visit to the Aqua Park that you use the Anglian Water website that covers the nature reserves for some background information. The Osprey Project is the most famous wildlife conservation project on Rutland Water. More information can again be found on the Anglian Water website.

Anglian Water measure the water quality on the reservoir and provide us with the results. The water is of good quality and well managed as it is a drinking water resource.

In Cardiff the water quality is measured and recorded under the direction of the Harbour Master and displayed on Cardiff Council's website.

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English: Newspaper articles, non-chronological, 'live' interviews and balanced arguments

A visit to the Aqua Park can be used as an event for a young reporter or budding journalist to write up, along with suitable images, for your school or college newspaper or website. Everybody knows that newspaper articles come alive with the inclusion of a few good quotes – make sure your students include those gems that they heard alongside some more serious reflections on what a visit to the Aqua Park had to offer!

Of course, your students could be prepared in role as interviewers and interviewees for that live footage and immediate reactions.

We use some of our customers' instant feedback on social media to promote our business, notably Facebook and Instagram. This is very much the sort of real-world activity that feeds directly into modern marketing.

Should you also have been considering the environmental aspect of the park, your visit could help form part of a balanced article about the siting of the Aqua Park.

If students would like to send us their finished articles, we would love to read them!

Or maybe even quote from them on our website, if they are happy for us to do this.