

## Messing about on the Mersey

Enjoy 28km of gently flowing river!

# High Schools / Colleges

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## Messing about on the Mersey (or the Bridgewater Canal)

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We have now been established for 2 years running a variety of different family and group activities based around the River Mersey at Heaton Mersey, Stockport. In March 2011 we gained our Adventure Activity License and we are now starting to engage with young people from a variety of backgrounds from small Special Needs provision to large group activity days. We can work with small focus groups or larger groups of up to 30 at a time on the water.

The vision when setting up was the concept of a **JOURNEY** and this remains the key aim, whether a half day, whole day or a mini expedition over a series of days, we can alternatively provide sessions based on one location.

**From 2012 we will have licenses for our canoes to use the Bridgewater Canal and could take groups for a paddle down your local canal. This can fit into many curriculum areas from discreet PE lessons or Btec sport units, D of E work, Geography, History even creative sessions for Art or Literacy. The boats can merely be the way to create an alternative day**

We are very flexible in what we can provide; all leaders are firstly fully qualified to lead the sessions but secondly are all used to working with young people from a diverse set of backgrounds, coming from a background themselves of teaching / residential work and outdoor education provision.

If you chose to come to our base in Stockport we can in conjunction with Burnage Rugby Club make use of their outstanding facilities to have a mixture of land based and water based activities.

## Prices (valid Sept. 2011 - Aug 2012)

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1 ½ hr session £8 per student based on multiples of 8 –10 students  
(fixed location using either Sit on Top Kayaks or Open Canoes)

4 hr session £16 per student based on multiples of 8 –10  
(this can be either at 1 location or a journey either on the River Mersey or the Bridgewater Canal or other NW locations)

2 day overnight trips £70 per student inc. all food and camping in a small private location in rural Cheshire  
(based on 15 pupils – prices will vary for other sized groups please contact for more info.)

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<http://www.bridgewatercanal.co.uk>



[www.jim-shead.com](http://www.jim-shead.com) Bridgewater Canal

## The Journey

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On the canal we will use our large 3 person canoes. Depending on which year group you chose to bring and when you come we will start by rafting the canoes to allow 6 children to go together....as they gain confidence by the afternoon we will untie them and let them go by themselves. If you come to the river we tend to keep the boats rafted with an adult in too.

**Using rafted canoes we provide a stable boat so that there is no risk of capsizing thus allowing us to offer trips well into the Autumn term and from early spring and on into the summer.....with our pack lunches carefully stowed away we will be out for the whole day on our way to complete a journey of between 5 and 9 miles.**

## Locations

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We can come to you (or as near as possible) on the Bridgewater Canal to save transport or you can come to us.

We are based at Burnage Rugby Club in Heaton Mersey, Stockport and can run fixed sessions there. We will also run trips from there down the River Mersey, we can also run fixed sessions at Northenden / Chorlton (by Jackson's Boat Pub) and in Sale by Trafford Metrovik Rugby Club.

## What else can you do?

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- ✚ Specific coaching using our Sit on Top Kayaks or the Open Boats working towards qualifications
- ✚ STAFF PADDLE....either for a social or even as part of a training day / staff meeting
- ✚ REWARDS....one school is bringing a small group of students from mixed age groups as part of their reward system in school
- ✚ AFTER SCHOOL SESSIONS.....set up some after school sessions either for a block of weeks or as a one off.
- ✚ FAMILY SESSIONS / PTA – maybe you could organize a fund raising session by following a school day on the canal with a family session and we can share the fees
- ✚ SPONSORED EVENT.....if up for a challenge the pupils could undertake the day maybe for school funds or even to part fund the trip ( all we encourage is for is 10% of fund raising to be split between RNLI/Wateraid)
- ✚ OLYMPICS .....Oh yes....and then there is the Olympics.....and canoeing is an Olympic Sport!!
- ✚ **If you have your own idea I'm sure we can accommodate it.**