

Messing about on the Mersey

Enjoy 28km of gently flowing river!

PRIMARY SCHOOLS



Messing about on the Mersey (or the Bridgewater Canal)

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 the company was the concept of a JOURNEY and this still 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 a whole year group for a paddle down your local canal, use it as a team building day or tie it in maybe to the history of the canal. We can look at map reading and study the nature and habitat on the way through rural Cheshire.

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 Feb 2012 - Oct 2012)

2nd Winter / 1st Autumn term £12 per pupil based on 30 children (this could consist of 2 half days if wanted)

Summer term £15 per pupil based on 30 children (this could consist of 2 half days if wanted)

2 day mid-week overnight trips from £50 per student including all food and camping in a small private location in rural Cheshire (based on a class of 30)

We can also run an after school session for your PTA following on from a school session and will split the proceeds with the school.

www.messingaboutonthemersey.co.uk

messingaboutonthemersey@ntlworld.com

Ring Ian 0790 5851299 (after 3.30pm)

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



www.jim-shead.com Bridgewater Canal

The Journey

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

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

Alternatively 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?

- ✚ 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 children from Y1 – Y6 as part of their reward scheme 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
- ✚ CURRICULUM AREAS....with experience in the Primary curriculum we will be able to provide across many areas.... from the obvious river study and studying the natural habitat to maybe a creative art/literacy day. We could even create a Viking Long Ship and launch a raiding party down the canal/river.
- ✚ 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 10% of fund raising to be split between RNLI/Wateraid)
- ✚ OLYMPICSOh yes....and then there is the Olympics.....and canoeing is an Olympic Sport!!