

In addition to this sheet you should have a Parental Consent Form and a copy of the Conditions of Use of The Castle Climbing Centre. The forms and information only apply to young people between 16 and 18 years old.

Risks

“The British Mountaineering Council recognises that climbing and mountaineering are activities with a danger of personal injury or death. Participants in these activities should be aware of and accept these risks and be responsible for their own actions and involvement.”

Although The Castle Climbing Centre is an artificial environment the risks involved are no less serious than when climbing outside on a crag or mountain. There is an additional risk of bolt-on holds spinning.

The ability of an individual to climb the routes in the climbing centre gives no indication of their ability to climb on natural rock in the outdoor environment. Traditional or adventure climbing, in particular, require skills which cannot be learned on the climbing walls.

The soft flooring under the bouldering walls is designed to provide a more comfortable landing for climbers falling/jumping from the bouldering wall. IT DOES NOT MAKE THIS ACTIVITY ANY SAFER. Broken and sprained limbs are common on this type of climbing wall despite the soft landing. Climbers must descend either by down climbing, jumping or at least a controlled fall. Uncontrolled falls are likely to result in injuries either to the climber or to others around them.

The Competence Assessment

The assessment described on the Young Person's Registration form will be made by a qualified instructor working for the climbing centre. The assessment is an indication of the competence of the young person to use the climbing centre unsupervised at that time. It is the responsibility of the young person to maintain familiarity with the skills and knowledge required. The assessment is not a measure of the young persons climbing ability and in no way does it measure their ability to climb in the outdoor environment.

After the Competence Assessment the young person will be either:

1. Approved for all climbing activities in the centre, including lead climbing.
2. Approved for bouldering and top roping only.
3. Deferred to gain more experience.

If they are approved for bouldering and top roping only, then they will be required to sign a declaration to say that they will not attempt to lead climb or to belay a lead climber in the centre without supervision from an adult climber who is registered with the centre. They will still be given access to use the other facilities without supervision. If after gaining more experience of lead climbing, under supervision, the young person wishes to be re-assessed so that they can lead climb unsupervised, they can book another Competence Assessment at any time.

If they are deferred the instructor will tell them what aspects of their climbing they need to gain more experience of before undergoing another assessment.

Unsupervised Climbing

After successful completion of the Competence Assessment and after the parent or guardian has given their consent by signing the Parental Consent Form the young person will be allowed to climb in the centre completely unsupervised! The staff will always provide whatever help and advice they can, but they cannot be expected to give instruction in the use of equipment or climbing techniques. If they are not confident in the use of any climbing equipment or technique then they should not attempt to use it without the supervision of someone who is competent to do so. The centre offers courses of instruction in most climbing techniques by prior appointment.

Booking Assessments

These can be arranged on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings between 2:30 and 5:30 and Tuesday and Friday evenings between 4:00 and 5:30, or at other times by prior arrangement. A Competence Assessment can be booked either in person at the centre or by telephone and by paying the Registration Fee of £5.

Conditions of Climbing for Young People

- Young people will not be registered and be allowed to climb at the centre unsupervised until they have completed the Competence Assessment successfully and their parent or guardian have completed the Parental Consent Form.
- Young people are expected to follow the rules and 'Good Practice' specified by the climbing centre at all times. If they fail to do so their Registration may be withdrawn.