



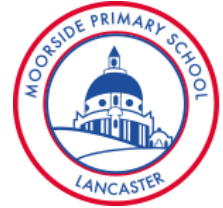
#BrilliantResidentials in the Lake District National Park Moorside Primary School, Lancaster & Cumbria Outdoors



A residential experience - with Cumbria Outdoors. A National Park - the Lake District. And the John Muir Award. What could be better for promoting active learning, resilience and resourcefulness? Moorside Primary School, a large, diverse school with children from all over the world, based in Lancaster, aims to challenge and support its Year 6 pupils to fully explore themselves as learners.



Lake District
National Park



“Immersion in the mountains, forests and lakes around Keswick gives an unparalleled experience that cannot be learnt from a book, video or simulation.

The resilience our children build up, the responsibility they take and the life-skills they refine could not be developed without these experiences.”

Jonathan Whitwell, Deputy Headteacher



Residentials and the John Muir Award

At Moorside, pupils are engaged in outdoor learning from Early Years through to Year 6, with curriculum time spent in school grounds, day visits and residential experiences throughout their school career. The culmination is a full term's worth of adventure-themed learning in Year 6 and a week-long residential visit to the Lake District.

Teachers use the John Muir Award to explore themes of Adventure, Survival and Fun - in a Lake District setting. Its framework provides a reference point throughout a range of topics and activities, focusing learning and prompting considerations of conservation and sustainability.

Working in partnership with Cumbria Outdoors has enabled the school to create a bespoke residential experience that captures many of the good practices highlighted by Learning Away (see below). Pupils and teachers experience the Lake District from every angle – scrambling up waterfalls; canoeing, kayaking and sailing on Derwent Water; mountain biking through the forest at Whinlatter; climbing real crags overlooking Borrowdale; navigating through the night, using stars, night vision and stealth.



A full-day mountain adventure takes in multiple summits and offers a sense of remoteness and achievement. Local, topical conservation action is an integrated part of the experience. Planting native tree species in Whinlatter Forest and removing fencing along the shore of Derwent Water promotes the sense of ownership and responsibility necessary for future generations to care for our National Parks.

Curriculum integration

The visit to Cumbria Outdoors is not a stand-alone visit. In school, pupils practise Geocaching, mapwork and navigation skills in preparation for their own adventures. They learn to use both open fires and camping stoves to boil water and cook their own meals, working in teams within their own set budget. Outdoor experiences complement National Curriculum Geographical skills work, as well as providing themes for the term's English work, and linking to adaptation and interdependence in Science. Religious Education studies focus on Fairtrade, linking local issues to global sustainability and responsibility. Sharing experiences – as part of their John Muir Award - links to the Computing curriculum, with individually designed and created blog pages to send to friends and family all over the world.

The culmination is a self-led ascent of Skiddaw (England's sixth-highest mountain), with the eleven-year olds plotting routes, planning for emergencies, navigating, finding geocaches - leading the way for the shadowing adults rather than following. It's also a charity fundraiser for the local Keswick Mountain Rescue Team, typically raising £1500.



“The Lake District has long been a place both to seek adventure and to learn about the environment and our relationship with it. In a world of diverse challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and physical inactivity, it has never been more important to inspire young people to be adventurous, to have hands-on real life experiences of our world in order that they understand and care for it. I’d encourage every school Governor and Head Teacher to support school residential visits to National Parks.”

Richard Leafe, CEO, Lake District National Park Authority



“The John Muir Award and our work with Cumbria Outdoors is fully embedded in our curriculum and allows our children to access the outdoors at their own level, challenge themselves, take responsibility and develop as a learner and a person, leaving our school as confident individuals with a love of outdoor adventure and fun.”

Jonathan Whitwell, Deputy Headteacher

Learning Away – Brilliant Residentials

Moorside School's use of the John Muir Award with Cumbria Outdoors embeds many key aspects identified in a significant 5-year study into residential experiences, 'Learning Away – Brilliant Residentials':

- fully integrated with a school curriculum and ethos
- part of a progressive programme of experiences
- planned with clear learning objectives to meet students' specific learning needs
- includes a wide range of new and memorable experiences
- designed to allow space for students to develop collaborative relationships with both peers and staff
- planned so that learning is embedded and reinforced back in school

Brilliant Residentials, [Learning Away Report](#), Paul Hamlyn Foundation, June 2015



"Learning Away has gathered powerful evidence about the transformative impact Brilliant Residentials like this have on everyone involved - pupils and their teachers. Residentials in National Parks can have a big impact because they provide new and memorable experiences, while also enabling young people to engage in activities that are collaborative, practical, challenging and exciting. In other words, just the kind of activities and experiences that pupils both need and enjoy, and make learning fun!"
Peter Carne, Learning Away National Adviser

#BrilliantResidentials – the John Muir Trust pledge

The John Muir Trust has pledged
"to work with others and provide more life-changing #BrilliantResidentials for young people. We'll promote the #JohnMuirAward to help make positive connections with wild places an integral part of residential experiences."

Find out more from the [Learning Away website](#) and see how to support the campaign.



"The legacy of this work will stay with our children for a lifetime, with many of them already taking on new outdoor activities, exploring the Lake District with their own families."
Jonathan Whitwell, Deputy Headteacher