



Useful Information for Teachers and Parents

What is a Briars Retreat Experience?

The Briars is a Catholic youth retreat centre based in the heart of the beautiful Derbyshire Dales. As part of the Nottingham Diocesan Catholic Youth Service it has been welcoming groups from all over the country for nearly 50 years. Living in community we explore what it means to be a Christian and part of the Catholic Church in the 21st century. We use small group work, games, prayer, singing and outdoor activities to explore our faith, beliefs and values. We aim to journey with people towards a personal relationship with Christ, looking to recognise God in all things and all people and helping to make faith real and relevant for all.

With over 4000 young people visiting us each year and many returning time after time, here's some of the comments we've received:

"My faith didn't really mean much to me before I came here but now I see it differently, I like being part of something that is worldwide. I really enjoyed my time at The Briars and can't wait to come back!"

"I've learnt so much about myself and my friends this week; we've all become so much closer to each other and God. I loved the games, the food, the team and especially our small group chats!"

"I wasn't really sure what to expect at The Briars but I had THE BEST week of my life. I made loads of new friends, laughed a lot and started to think about my faith in a way I'd never done before."

"What a brilliant friendly place to come to! Thank you to all the amazing team who worked with us – inspirational! I've thought about stuff I've never thought about before and I honestly think I'm a nicer person now than when I arrived here 4 days ago."

To get the most out of a retreat those visiting will need:

Kit List

- Toiletries and a towel/s
- Pyjamas & slippers
- Warm clothing including hat and gloves (in winter months)
- Sun cream & hat (in summer months)
- Waterproof clothing & shoes/boots (these may get muddy)
- Spending money for snacks & souvenirs in our tuck shop
- Water bottle, small day bag /rucksack (large enough to carry lunch & waterproofs)

The Briars accepts no responsibility for the loss or damage to personal possessions and would advise valuables, including mobile phones and jewellery are left at home.

The Briars uses a variety of new technologies and social media to engage with young people in an out of the centre. We will check with every group on arrival that they are happy for us to take photos and videos during the retreat and use them online in accordance with GDPR and our Safeguarding Policy.

For more information about The Briars or the Youth Service visit our website www.ndcys.com. You can view our risk assessments and get help planning a visit by visiting the 'Manage my trip' section. You will also find us on Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Twitter by searching for 'NDCYS'