

SOMERSET CHRISTIAN CAMPS
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS,
AND DIET POLICY

Reviewed July 2019

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1. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

1.1 Admissions

- Somerset Christian Camps is open to children aged 7 - 12. The applications for places are allocated on a first-come, first served basis.
- Somerset Christian Camps 'Work Crew' is open to children aged 13 – 15. Work Crew places are limited so candidates will be selected through an application process, based on the answers to questions in an application form. The following criteria will be used:
 - Applicants who have attended as campers in the past will be preferred.
 - Applicants who have shown an aptitude for helping at camp will be preferred.
 - Applicants who have shown an interest in, or made a commitment to, Christianity will be preferred.

1.2 Volunteers

- Somerset Christian Camps will accept volunteers who are committed Christians and who can provide an appropriate reference from their minister/church leader. Jobs are allocated according to the volunteer's experience, qualification and gifting.
- Because of the nature of Camp, there is a requirement for there to be an equal balance of male and female staff.
- At camp, each volunteer will undergo an interview with members of the co-ordinating team to discuss any concerns they may have.

1.3 Families

- Somerset Christian Camps recognises that many different types of family successfully love and care for children.
- Camp will value each child and family as individuals.
- Camp offers a flexible payment system for families with differing means, and some help is available to those who have difficulty affording the fees.

1.4 The Programme

- All children will be respected and their individuality and potential recognised, valued and nurtured.
- Activities and the use of play equipment offer children opportunities to develop in an environment free from prejudice and discrimination.

1.5 Resources

- These will be chosen to give children a balanced view of the world and an appreciation of the rich diversity of our multi-racial society.
- Materials will be selected to help children to develop their self-respect and to respect other people by avoiding stereotypes and derogatory pictures or messages about any groups of people.

1.6 Special Needs

- The Camp recognises the wide range of special/additional needs of children and families in the community, and will consider what part it can play in meeting these needs.
- Planning for Camp will take into account the needs of people with individual

needs.

1.7 Discriminatory Behaviour/Remarks

- These are unacceptable at Camp, and the volunteers will challenge them. (As stated in the behaviour policy). The response will aim to be sensitive to the feelings of the victim(s) and to help those responsible to understand and overcome their prejudices, by explanation and discussion.

1.8 Food

- Medical, cultural and dietary needs will be met.

2. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- On the Camp application form, parents/carers are asked to contact the co-ordinating team before booking if their child has a serious medical or clinical condition.
- Children with special/additional needs, like all other children, are admitted to Camp after consultation between parents, the co-ordinating team and the Camp nurse.
- Before the start of Camp, parents are asked to complete a confidential medical form.
- The tent leader system employed at Camp ensures that each volunteer is specifically responsible for, and close to, a small number of Campers, so each child receives plenty of adult time and attention.
- Tent Leaders will be kept informed of campers in their care who have special needs.
- If it is felt that a child's needs cannot be met at Camp, full discussion will be held with parents/carers and the co-ordinating team.
- Prior to children arriving at Camp specific training is given to all volunteers in relation to special educational needs generally, and the specific needs of any children on Camp.
- Parents are kept informed at the end of Camp about their child/rens progress.

3. DIET

Meal and snack times are an important part in the social life of the Camp, as well as reinforcing Campers' understanding of the importance of healthy eating.

3.1 Somerset Christian Camps Will Ensure

- All Campers' medical and personal dietary requirements are respected, as stated on their confidential medical forms.
- The dietary rules of religious groups and also of vegetarians/vegans will be researched when appropriate.
- All snacks provided are nutritious, and provide an overall balanced diet.
- Milk provided for children is pasteurised, an alternative will be provided if required.
- Whilst on site, drinking water is available to the children at all times, which they are made aware of. During organised activities, regular drinks breaks will be taken.
- During meal times, children eat within their tent group, supervised by their tent leaders.