

The Outward Bound Experience

a case study by Louis Crouan



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Louis Crouan, Chair of Governors, City of Preston High School

Background

Louis Crouan has spent over forty years working in education as headteacher, OfSTED Registered Inspector and Local Authority Principal Advisor. He is currently Chair of Governors at the City of Preston High School, which serves an area of social disadvantage and educational challenge. He recently spent a week as a volunteer, supporting a group of pupils from the school on an Outward Bound course at The Trust's Ullswater centre.



The Outward Bound experience does just that. From the very start, the youngsters are given real responsibility, both for themselves and for each other. Over many years, my eyes and ears have become well tuned to recognise educational experiences that are a cut above the rest. In my week at Ullswater I certainly observed excellent teaching by skilful instructors whose knowledge and expertise in the field of outdoor pursuits was matched by their first rate concern for the pupils' welfare. But what impressed me most was the emphasis on the concept of education for life, the constant reminder that group members were working for each other and that, by co-operating, they would achieve much more than by going it alone. By the end of my week at Ullswater, like most of the staff and pupils, I was certainly exhausted but I was also energised by seeing what could be achieved in such a short time. The next challenge is to build on this and embed the newly experienced attitudes and skills into the youngsters' daily lives.

The Outward Bound Experience

The journey from being a fourteen year old to becoming a responsible adult is often a rock-strewn road. This is nowhere truer than for young people growing up in the most disadvantaged parts of our cities, where the pressure to conform to irresponsible, anti-social behaviour is greatest. This means that it is all the more important for these young people to be provided with experiences that help present a positive approach to each other, a range of activities that challenge them to seek solutions that involve co-operation, respect, responsibility and self-reliance.



**THE
OUTWARD
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Adventures for life