

## CONDITIONS OF USE FOR THE WEST HILL SCHOOL CLIMBING WALL

**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 school climbing wall 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 that bolt-on holds can spin or break.

The soft matting under the climbing and traversing walls is designed to provide a more comfortable landing for climbers falling or jumping from the wall. **THE SOFT MATTING DOES NOT MAKE THE CLIMBING ANY SAFER.** Broken and sprained limbs are common on this type of climbing wall despite the soft landing. **Uncontrolled falls are likely to result in injuries to yourself or others.**

Climbing **beyond your capabilities** on any wall is likely to result in a **fall**. Any fall may result in an **injury** despite the safety systems in place to avoid it. You must make your **own assessment of the risks** whenever you climb.

**Our Duty of Care** - The rules of the school climbing wall set out below **are not** intended to limit your enjoyment of the facilities. They **are** part of the **duty of care** that we, as operators, owe to you, the customer, by law. As such they are **not negotiable** and if you are not prepared to abide by them then you will not be allowed to become a member.

**Your Duty of Care** - You also have a **duty of care** to act responsibly towards the other users of the wall. Statements of ‘Good Practice’ are posted around the centre adjacent to the relevant facilities. These describe the

accepted methods of use and how users would normally be expected to behave towards each other.

**Unsupervised Climbing** – Only Staff members will be allowed to climb on the wall unsupervised once they have completed a competence assessment and been signed off by a West Hill School Climbing Wall Instructor.

The competence level required is the use of a safety harness, a suitable knot to attach a rope to the harness and a belay device to secure a falling climber or lower a climber from the wall using a rope. You are also required to abide by the Rules below and that you understand the risks involved in your participation.

Anyone who has not registered is classed as a **novice** and **must not** climb without supervision.

**Unsupervised climbing is just that!** If you are not **confident** in the use of any climbing equipment or technique then **do not** attempt to use it without the supervision of someone who is competent to do so.

Any adult climbing unsupervised must ensure a First Aider not climbing is informed and on site whilst climbing is taking place.

**Supervised Climbing** - An Instructor who has registered at the school climbing wall may supervise groups within the remit of their qualification.

All instructors must hold the relevant Mountain Leader Training or a site specific assessed qualification as well as a valid first Aid certificate.

**Children** – All under 18’s must be supervised by a West Hill School Climbing Wall Instructor and have registered as a West Hill Climbing Wall Member. All under 18’s **must** have a parent consent form.

## RULES

### General Safety

- Pupils should not climb or touch the equipment untold to do so.
- You must exercise care, common sense and self preservation at all times.
- Report any problems with the walls, equipment or other climbers’ behaviour to a member of staff immediately.
- Be aware of the other climbers around you and how your actions will affect them.
- Do not distract people while they are climbing or belaying.
- Stand well back from the climbing walls unless you are belaying or spotting a climber. Never stand directly under someone who is climbing.
- All users are to wear Climbing Helmets at all times when climbing, belaying & on the matting area.

### When Belaying

- Always use a belay device attached to your safety harness with a locking karabiner. ‘Traditional’ or ‘body’ belaying is not acceptable.
- The attachment points on the bottom of the wall are provided to give support to people belaying a climber who is much heavier than they are. Direct belays from the attachment points on the floor are not acceptable.
- Always pay attention to what the climber is doing.

- Always stand as close to the climbing wall as is practical unless you are using one of the attachment points on the floor. Sitting or lying down is not acceptable.

### When Climbing

- The tall walls are designed to be climbed using a rope for protection. Solo climbing is not acceptable on these walls. Always use a rope to protect yourself on these climbs.
- Always use a safety harness to attach yourself to the rope.
- Always tie the rope directly into the harness using a suitable climbing knot. Clipping in with a karabiner is not acceptable.

### Bouldering/Traversing

- Always climb within your capabilities and descend by down climbing, jumping or, at the very least, a controlled fall.
- Never climb directly above or below another climber.
- Harnesses are not to worn whilst traversing.
- Traversing may take place on the traversing wall to the right of the climbing lanes whilst climbing is taking place.

### Chalk

- Is not to be used.