

# Squirrels

## Welcome

Dear Parent's

Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> Dagenham, Squirrels Drey.

We meet every Monday night 4:10pm to 5:10pm during term time at St Mary's Church Hall, Grafton Road, Dagenham, RM8 3ET.

Throughout the year your child will be working towards various badges and will be asked to complete work at home, please encourage and support them to complete and return work as soon as possible. Your child will have the opportunity to take part in events, activities, competitions, outings, and day camps.

We charge £10:00 per month (£120:00 per year) to cover the cost of hall rent, badges & materials etc, and to cover the cost of insurance for your child and the assets of the group (district, county and headquarters capitation fees) we take sub payments either by cash or via standing order on the 4<sup>th</sup> of the month. We must also charge subs for any weeks your young person misses such as sickness, holidays etc. This is to ensure your child's place is kept in the group and insurances are kept up to date.

Please send your child with a coat and a full water bottle with all emergency medication such as inhalers/EpiPen's etc every week and to any other event camp or activity

If your child is absent for more than 3 consecutive Mondays, your section leader will contact you to ask if you will be returning. If we do not hear from you after the 4<sup>th</sup> week, we will assume that you have left. It is important that a Leader is informed if your child is wishing to leave Squirrels, so that their place can be filled with someone from our waiting list.

It is the absolute responsibility of the parent's & carers to contact the leader for any information or letters that may have gone out on the night your young person is absent. Please do not assume the leader will get this information to you please ask. Our group Facebook Parents Page is the best source for current information please search for 6<sup>th</sup> Dagenham Squirrels and ask to join.

When you arrive on a Monday parents & carers must escort children to the hall doors at the beginning of the night and pick them up from the hall doors at the end of the night.

It is understandable that you may have queries or questions for leaders, but we ask that you don't save these up for a Monday as this is not the best time to speak to the leaders as they are busy running the session with all the children, please message phone or email, contact details are below.

All sections at the 6th (Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts) are required to wear uniform to all events unless you have been told not to by the relevant leader. Even in the instance of being told uniform is not suitable for an activity the Necker should be worn or on show always.

Below is a Squirrel information page for your young person, it has the Squirrel Scout Promise and Law on. To become a member of any Squirrel Drey your child will need to learn and remember these. This page also lets you know where badges go on the uniform.

You will receive an email from a system called OSM. This system securely stores all your child's details and contact information. Please log into the system regularly and update all information as needed. We must stress it is your responsibility to keep the information up to date and this is our information for Emergencies!

We also have a website [www.vidags.org.uk](http://www.vidags.org.uk) and a private Facebook group for parents '6th Dagenham Scouts' please join this group as it's the best way to get latest updates and information also we share pictures of camps and events for you to see

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Rachel Haidon – Squirrel Scout Leader

Email: [squirrels@vidags.org.uk](mailto:squirrels@vidags.org.uk)

Stuart Bailey – Group Scout Leader

Mob: 078 0915 7188

Email: [stuart.bailey@vidags.org.uk](mailto:stuart.bailey@vidags.org.uk)

Web: [www.VIDAGS.org.uk](http://www.VIDAGS.org.uk)

Facebook: 6th Dagenham Scout Group

### UNIFORM

Uniform can be purchased from the Scout Association's online shop or from Hargreaves Scout Campsite. All badges and woggles will be supplied by the group. Group Red T-Shirts can be purchased from the group.

We seriously advise to get uniform that is slightly too big as your young person has many years of growing yet to do!

Once your young person has decided they wish to stay with the group please see a leader to ensure that you purchase the correct items.

### COMMUNICATIONS

With many ways of communicating these days we often find that Online Scout Manager is the easiest form of communication. Facebook is another good medium to keep all up to date with information last minute changes and notifications of camps and activities.

If you are on Facebook and can join the closed parents' group, please search for '6th Dagenham Scout Group' and ask to join.

We understand not all have Facebook for various reasons and we will always try our best to communicate information to all. We use OSM for camps and activities and can email info to parents and share them on the groups Facebook account.

This will cut down on the cost of printing and retaining information it also generates spreadsheets with the information which is easier than looking through sheets of paper.

### BEHAVIOUR POLICY

All Children are different and have very different needs and understanding of the world around them. We will always help support and understand all children, but we ask you are honest with the leaders should your child have additional needs. This allows our leaders to understand change or amend our way of working and even accept certain traits and behaviours. We will always challenge poor behaviour but always in a unique way to the child we are speaking to.

That said we still need good behaviour from all our young people in the group. Should we have a problem with your child we will of course speak with you and working together we will ensure the young person is supported

in making better choices. For the groups full policy please see 'Group Behaviour Policy' on the members area of the website.

**We will never accept bullying  
we will ask members to leave the group if it continues**

### COMPLAINTS

Sometimes we make mistakes! We always try our best, but your help and understanding are always appreciated! if you're not happy Facebook isn't the place, you must speak to Stuart who will resolve your complaint or escalate up to district.

It is best to talk so please do get in contact and we will hopefully resolve your problem. We follow the national rule book given to all Scout Association Groups called P.O.R. you can view a copy online. <https://www.scouts.org.uk/por>

We also ask that you appreciate that all our adults are volunteers completely unpaid and giving up lots of time to run and operate the group

# **Squirrels**

## The Squirrel Scout Promise

I promise to do my best  
To be kind and helpful  
And to love God.

## The Squirrel Scout Motto

Be prepared  
We always shake with our left hand and salute with our right