

CADETS

- THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

What are Cadets?

Cadets are young members of RVYC aged 8 to 18. They have their own meeting night (Friday) for most of each year as well as Cadet Week held in August.

So what happens on Friday nights?

From April to September there are sailing nights which start at times governed by the tides and you'll need to look at the programme for further details.

There are also theory and social evenings (but not in January) when the tide is out and sailing would be difficult... These start at 19:30.

Theory and social nights?

These are usually short sessions covering aspects of sailing theory and shore-based activities. Some nights are given over to less serious games or activities.

And sailing nights?

This is when we aim to get everyone sailing on the water. An instructor in a safety boat will teach and support a group of up to eight cadets.

You mentioned Cadet Week...

This is five days of on-water activity with up to 60 cadets, learning more about sailing and having fun. It's usually when you can make a lot of progress and grow in confidence and ability by sailing every day.

Do I need my own boat?

If you are just starting to sail - no. The club has nine Optimist dinghies that can be used. For older cadets with proven skills there are six Toppers and two Picos. When you have more experience you may want your own boat, and we can give you advice about what to buy.

Don't forget to socialise and have fun - it's your club!

PARENTS/GUARDIANS

- THE THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Is it safe?

The RVYC has a very good safety record. Young people are taught in groups of up to eight. Each group is accompanied by a safety boat with a powerful outboard motor, vhf radio and emergency kit. It is staffed by an experienced leader and crew. If there is any sort of problem on the water, the safety boat can be alongside your child very quickly.

I'm not sure my child knows anything about sailing...

Don't worry - everyone has to start somewhere! Your child will be put in a group that suits their sailing ability, and their leader will have been briefed about their ability. Initially s/he may be put in a boat with someone else.

Do you follow a training programme?

We have our own training programme and each cadet should have their own log book to record their progress. Cadet leaders supply these at £1 each. Cadets progress through the training scheme, completing each section and changing groups as their knowledge and ability grows.

What should my child wear?

A wetsuit is ideal, and a buoyancy aid - no-one including adults is allowed on the pontoon or the water without one.

As a parent/guardian do I need to do anything?

The Club is reliant upon volunteers to support most of its activities including its work with young people.

Help with handing out "on-water tags", launching and recovering boats, staffing the base radio and crewing the safety boats and generally offering to help are very much encouraged.

So what does it all cost?

Once you and your child/guardian are members of RVYC - actually very little. If you use a club boat - we'll ask you to pay a small hire charge for sailing nights - currently £2 for Optimists and £3 for Toppers. Using a club boat during Cadet Week costs about £55.