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**Learner Riding Policy**

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| **Written by:** | **Rob Stevenson** | **Date: June 2025** |
| **Last reviewed on:** | **New** | |
| **Approved by:** | **A.Powell** | |
| **Next review due by:** | **June 2026** | |

**Higher Farm Education Learner Riding Policy**

Reviewed: June 2025 | Next Review: June 2026

1. Purpose

This policy outlines the criteria and conditions under which learners at Higher Farm Education may participate in mounted horse riding sessions. Riding is a valuable part of the learner experience, offering therapeutic, physical, and skills-based benefits. However, to ensure the safety and well-being of both horse and rider, specific eligibility criteria and procedures must be followed.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Riding

To participate in mounted sessions, learners must meet the following physical and engagement-based criteria:

Weight Limit: Riders must weigh 12 stone (76.2 kg) or less.

Height Consideration: Learners must be of a suitable height for balance and posture in relation to the horses available. Final approval is at the discretion of the riding instructor and equine

manager.

To be included on the riding school’s ECPro software, a learner’s height and weight will need to be recorded on site. This will be conducted by a member of staff in a sensitive manner. If a parent wishes to be present for this, then arrangements can be made to support this.

Engagement: Learners must demonstrate ongoing engagement with their wider programme,

including participation in horse/animal care, classroom sessions, and vocational qualification work. Riding is considered a privilege based on consistent attendance, attitude, and effort.

All learners will be assessed for riding suitability before any mounted sessions take place.

Where a learner does not meet the physical criteria for a mounted session, they will be offered a driven cart experience which will meet the same safety standards; including the wearing of a

helmet and fulfillment of the existing engagement criteria.

3. Structure and Frequency of Riding

Mounted sessions will be available on a termly basis, during a two-week riding block scheduled by the provision team in coordination with the riding school.

Each eligible learner will be offered 2 to 3 individual riding sessions during this period.

Sessions are private, 1:1 riding lessons held away from other learners to support individual

progress and reduce distractions.

Riding takes place during timetabled hours, and learners are expected to attend all lessons as scheduled.

4. Riding Supervision and Instruction

All riding sessions will be delivered by an instructor from the Higher Farm Riding School, in line with the Centre’s current insurance, safety standards, and equine welfare protocols. No staff outside the designated riding team will deliver mounted lessons.

Only identified staff approved by the Centre Proprietor (Laura Clarke) are permitted to supervise or instruct mounted sessions.

During riding sessions, learners are temporarily under the governance of the Riding School,

including its insurance and health & safety procedures.

5. Behaviour and Safety

Riding is a high-risk activity requiring calm behaviour, clear communication, and co-operation from all participants.

Riding School staff have the final decision on which horse the learner can ride in their riding

lesson.

Learners must follow all safety instructions from staff without argument or delay. Failure to do so may result in the learner being removed from the riding programme for that term.

A helmet and appropriate footwear must be worn at all times when riding; these can include riding boots or wellies.

6. Records and Monitoring

Riding participation, incidents, and learner progress will be logged by the provision team and

recorded on internal systems (e.g., CPOMS).

The decision to allow or remove a learner from the riding programme rests with the Education Lead and Deputy Safeguarding Lead, in consultation with the riding instructor and proprietor Laura Clarke.

7. Safeguarding and Insurance

All riding activity takes place under the insurance, risk assessment, and safeguarding framework of the Higher Farm Riding School.

Safeguarding concerns that arise during a session will be recorded on CPOMS and passed to the Designated Safeguarding Team and escalated as appropriate.

Riding is not compulsory and is offered as an enrichment opportunity, based on suitability and

engagement.