

Mount Pleasant School Farm Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

Aim

The School Farm aims to be an exemplar of best educational practice in protecting and safeguarding children and young people while visiting the farm.

The role of all staff and other persons within the School Farm setting

All adults involved in a school or youth group visit to the farm have a duty to safeguard children. The School Farm Teacher/Centre Manager is responsible for the overall health, safety and welfare of pupils, staff and accompanying adults while on the farm site. However teachers must remember that they still remain in loco parentis for their pupils.

This policy outlines how staff can meet their duty and the need to be:

- Aware of potential indicators of abuse
- Informed on how to report any concerns
- Informed on how to report any concerns relating to the School Farm staff
- Local authorities and all schools have a legal responsibility to make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. (*DfE statutory Guidance Keeping children safe in education 1/9/2023*). Every school must have a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) with special responsibility for child protection and support for staff. Visit leaders should be aware of the child protection policies and procedures for their individual school.
- All person working in the educational parts of the farm are made aware of this policy.
- All adults working at the farm who have direct access to children have been checked as to their suitability i.e. successfully completed a Disclosure Barring Service check.

Awareness of potential indicators of abuse

Never

- Ask questions
- Ask the child to write down their account
- Take photographs of marks
- Attempt to make a medical judgement
- Tape/video record an interview
- Ask a child to remove any clothing

Always

- Think about the level and type of contact
- Keep physical contact with children to a minimum and be able to justify it
- Be visible and open in your actions
- Only use physical restraint as a last resort or in an emergency e.g. if a child is about to walk in front of a tractor, or touch a farm animal when requested not to do so
- Be aware of reputation and levels of appropriate adult behaviour



Reporting Procedures

- The School Farm recognises that some children may be the victims of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. To a child the Farm Teacher may be seen as a friendly face, not someone in authority, and therefore he/she may make a disclosure or display signs of abuse. If a child does this **IT IS CONFIDENTIAL** and the incident must be reported only to the school visit leader. On the return to school they must report back to their DSL who will seek advice/make a judgement as to what action needs to be taken.
- The Centre Manager/Farm Teacher should not discuss the matter with anyone other than the School Visit Leader, DSL or the Head Teacher.
- A Child Concern Form (copy attached to this policy) is kept in the School Farm Office for the use of the Centre Manager and School Visit Leader.

Staff allegations

- All child protection allegations relating to staff (either school or farm) must be reported directly to the Head Teacher and not the DSL without informing the subject of the concern/allegation.
- The full evidence of such an allegation will be made available to the member of staff as soon as it is agreed appropriate within the ongoing needs of any investigation by the Police, Social Care Services, or by any disciplinary process.
- If an allegation is made that involves a member of the farm staff the Trustees of Mount Pleasant School Farm will also be informed by the Centre Manager. They will then take appropriate action.
- A school can also contact the Chair of the Trustees directly if they have concerns regarding the appropriate behaviour of the Centre Manager/Farm Teacher or the operation of the Centre. A letter of concern can be posted to the School Farm addressed **For the personal attention of the Chair of Mount Pleasant School Farm CIO**. Contact details are displayed in the corridor.

Data Protection

The School Farm will adhere to General Data Protection Regulations, in accordance with our relevant policies.

Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually by Centre Manager.

Reviewed 4th September 2023

Chair of Trustees.....*Candice H Compton*.....

Centre Manager.....*Nina Hatch*.....