



## RISK ASSESSMENT FOR VISITS TO MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL FARM

<p><b>CONTEXT</b></p> <p><b>3 Equipment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Footwear, appropriate clothing &amp; equipment available for pupils and adult visitors for all likely weather conditions and activities around the farm</li> </ul> <p><b>Other equipment for use with animals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Buckets &amp; other feeding equipment are provided for pupils to participate in some activities</li> </ul>		<p>Teachers/Group leaders are advised to reinforce and explain appropriate clothing to parents &amp; pupils prior to a farm visit. All visitors must wear appropriate footwear provided onsite to comply with the farm biosecurity measures. If this is impractical for medical reasons we must be notified. Wellingtons &amp; Waterproofs are checked regularly for damage &amp; cleanliness. Gloves, Socks &amp; Fleeces are available if required. We recommend that children wear a cap/hat on hot days. Sunscreen must be self - administered.</p> <p>All animal feeding equipment/implements are checked on a regular basis.</p>
<p><b>4. Environment/ Location</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parked farm vehicles &amp; machinery in car park &amp; other areas of the farm</li> <li>Moving farm vehicles &amp; machinery</li> <li>Slips &amp; falls in yard, pens, or fields due to uneven ground or obstacles</li> <li>Barbed wire and fences, Electric shock from fences in the fields</li> <li></li> </ul>	<p>All pupils/students, staff any other visitors on organised visits to the School Farm</p>	<p>The site is checked whenever a group are booked in to visit the School Farm. Farm staff will be aware that children are on the site.</p> <p>Pupils are not allowed on farm vehicles or to wander unsupervised. <u>All groups</u> will be accompanied by an adult when outside the classroom. The farm teacher must accompany any group accessing the dairy aspects of the farm. 2 robots now operate in the cow shed area. 1 in an area not accessible to visitors cleans up cow muck. Another robot provides the cattle with constant access to silage grass feed. The farm teacher will assess when it is possible to enter this area. Children are also told not to touch farm tools/machinery. Teachers should note that the yard gates must remain open for farm vehicle shared access during the day. Clear instructions are given to pupils to walk as the ground may be uneven or muddy. Groups reminded to look, walk, and not touch barbed wire fencing or stand on any fence or gate. <u>1 field has an electric fence for the cattle</u>, rarely visited and very young children will not be taken there.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Injuries caused by animals – scratches, bites, pecks and being knocked over</li>   <li>• Allergic reactions</li>   <li>• Transmittable diseases/zoonoses e.g. E.coli 0157, Lyme disease, cryptosporidium, leptospirosis, avian flu, toxoplasmosis, ringworm</li> </ul>		<p>Instructions given to approach animals quietly and gently. Pupils only allowed to handle animals considered to be docile under close supervision. Normally visitors will stay outside the sheep paddock, pig sty &amp; cattle pens.</p> <p>Teachers are asked to notify in advance of known allergies e.g. nuts, eggs, wheat. If any signs of a reaction by a visitor they should be removed from that part of the farm. Usual school meal guidelines also apply for packed lunches eaten in the classroom re food allergies.</p> <p>All staff to follow Access to Farms code of practice ‘Advice to Teachers &amp; Others who organise visits for schools’. <u>Updated April 2021</u>. Initial session will emphasise hand washing with warm water &amp; soap after touching animals &amp; feed, &amp; before eating &amp; drinking. Close supervision of pupils when using toilets &amp; sinks. Food will only be eaten in the classroom. At end of visits staff will be expected to support their pupils in washing wellingtons. Visitors reminded not to touch animal faeces and any contaminated personal clothing will be rinsed &amp; disinfectant sprayed.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risk of toxoplasmosis</li>   <li>• Silage smell making visitors feel sick</li>   <li>• Hazardous plants</li> </ul>	<p>Pregnant women</p>	<p>Pregnant women to avoid contact with sheep during lambing time or seek advice from the Centre Manager.</p> <p>Smell explained as a natural process, affected visitors can be removed from the area.</p> <p>Pupils warned not to pick leaves, berries, fruit, or fungi. Regular checks will be made for stinging nettles around classroom, sheep paddocks and chicken pens.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contaminated water in Centre or from farm or field troughs</li>   <li>• Trapping fingers in doors</li> </ul>	<p>All visitors</p>	<p>IWS statutory monthly internal water checks. Rainwater taps clearly labelled. Only kitchen tap to be used for drinking.</p> <p>Movement around the centre and through doors to be supervised by adults especially with younger children.</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slip and falls while crossing over stiles and walking around the farmyards and adjoining countryside/ woodland</li> <li>• Accidents on road (Icknield Street) outside the farmyard</li> </ul> <p><b>5 TRAVEL/TRANSPORT</b></p> <p><b>6. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accidents to any pupils or adult visitors</li>   <li>• Fire</li>   <li>• Danger from escaped animals in farmyard, fields, or adjoining land</li>   <li>• Centre Manager/Teacher suffers sudden illness or injury</li>   <li>• Outbreak of Foot and Mouth or other transmittable diseases and infections on this or nearby farms</li> </ul>		<p>Close adult supervision of all pupils when outside the classroom. At least one adult should carry a mobile phone and first aid kit when outside the immediate yard, in the fields or surrounding area.</p> <p>Single file walking along Icknield Street High vis jackets are recommended to be worn by front &amp; rear adult</p> <p>All groups met on arrival and reminded to walk to classroom Minibuses/coaches to park in the identified area All pupils to be counted on/off the coach/ minibus by school staff All groups returned to their transport with an adult in front of them No running is allowed in the farmyard</p> <p>Emergency procedures are clearly displayed in the Centre. In the event of an accident the farm teacher will complete an accident form, kept in white cabinet in classroom. If this involves a school pupil or staff member the form must be taken back to school with a photocopy kept at the farm. Near misses to be recorded and procedures reviewed.</p> <p>The Fire Safety policy details evacuation procedures, assembly point and contacts. Fire exits are kept clear and labelled, annual contract for extinguisher and fire alarm checks. Pupils to remain together &amp; return to classroom until farmer &amp; Centre Manager/Teacher deem it safe to return outside</p> <p>Visiting staff to be aware of their responsibilities: ring 999, complete accident form, arrange with school for early return. Essential phone nos. are displayed in the corridor. Farmer to be informed.</p> <p>The farm would be immediately closed to <u>all</u> visitors &amp; schools will be notified. Daily liaison between farmer &amp; Centre staff to follow all government guidance and schools will be notified.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transmission of avian flu from wild birds to poultry.</li> <li>• Adverse weather conditions - winter ice on lane or farmyard or snow</li> <li>• Summer heat leading to risk of heat stroke as farm has little shade in the fields or yard</li> </ul>		<p>Depends on the level of risk as declared by Defra and APHA. If Avian Flu restrictions are imposed, chickens must be fed/watered away from wild bird contact and kept in the covered area. In summer 2023 chicken housing has been rebuilt to meet maximum Defra/APHA Avian Flu standards.</p> <p>Guidelines on appropriate clothing available at the farm. Centre Manager to advise coach company &amp; school if lane is unsafe for driving access. The Level of risk will be continuously assessed</p> <p>Revised summer programme with extra drink breaks and time indoors. Visitors advised to bring sun caps/hats.</p>
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**Date of assessment 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024**

**Review Date September 2025 or earlier**

**Signed.....**  
**Print Name....Nina Hatch**

**Centre Manager**

**Approved.....**  
**Date.....**

**MPSF Trustee**