

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR VISITS TO MOUNT PLEASANT SCHOOL FARM

ASPECTS TO CONSIDER	WHO IS AFFECTED	CONTROL MEASURES
PEOPLE 1 Type of Group - Pupils & students in school or college groups with a teacher & other appropriate adults - Other organised and pre-booked groups - Other visiting personnel e.g. delivery men or contractors	All visitors	Group leaders are invited to arrange a pre-visit. Written guidance is available on the website which can be backed up by individual discussion to prepare for specific activities. Farm risk assessment to be used in conjunction with school or groups' RA. All group leaders are made aware of the Farm Behaviour Policy and are asked to adhere to this. Biosecurity measures are also mentioned on the planning sheet. MPSF to be notified of any special medical conditions that may affect activities or behaviour during a visit. No-one is allowed to wander around the farm without permission. All other visitors must initially report on arrival to the Centre Manager or Farm Teacher.
2 Staffing - Centre Manager with relevant experience, competence & qualifications including first aid & DBS clearance - Any teacher employed by MPSF to lead a group visit - All visiting school staff & accompanying adults are expected to be aware of the potential risks on a farm site and be prepared to assist if needed - Gender issues - Cultural/religious sensitivities	All visitors plus the Centre Manager & any other Farm Teacher All Pupils/Students	Centre Manager is a qualified teacher with relevant experience & is Enhanced DBS checked. Any teacher employed by MPSF will have been Enhanced DBS checked & will have First Aid experience. All school groups must be accompanied by at least 2 responsible adults, ideally one should have a first aid qualification approved by the school. Additional staffing ratios are to be determined by a schools' own risk assessment and age/needs of pupils. Ideally male and female adult helpers should accompany a visit. Groups are advised to bring their own first aid kit although basic first aid equipment is available in the kitchen. The disabled/staff toilet may be used by any pupil who declares themselves gender neutral or has identity issues. Viewing pigs is optional, no visitors are to stroke or feed them. Any other cultural or sensitivity issues can be mentioned to the farm teacher on the day.

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CONTEXT 3 Equipment - Footwear, appropriate clothing & equipment available for pupils and adult visitors for all likely weather conditions and activities around the farm Other equipment for use with animals - Buckets & other feeding equipment are provided for pupils to participate in some activities		Teachers/Group leaders are advised to reinforce and explain appropriate clothing to parents & pupils prior to a farm visit. All visitors must wear appropriate footwear which is provided onsite to comply with the farm biosecurity measures. If this is impractical for medical reasons we must be notified. Wellingtons & Waterproofs are checked regularly for damage & cleanliness. Gloves, Socks & Fleeces are available if required. We recommend that children wear a cap/hat on hot days. Sunscreen must be self - administered. All animal feeding equipment/implements are checked on a regular basis.
4. Environment/ Locations - Parked farm vehicles & machinery in car park & other areas of the farm - Moving farm vehicles & robotic controlled machinery in the buildings or in the farmyard - Slips & falls in yard, pens, or fields due to uneven ground or obstacles	All pupils/students, staff any other visitors on organised visits to the School Farm	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. Pupils are not allowed on farm vehicles or to wander unsupervised. They will also be told not to touch farm tools or machinery. <u>An adult will accompany all pupils/groups</u> outside the classroom. The farm teacher will be with any group accessing dairy aspects of the farm. Please note there are now 3 robotic milking machines in the main cow shed. Cows can access these at any time and the farm teacher will assess if a group can enter here. Visitors must be extremely quiet or they will be asked to leave the building. 2 Lely Discovery Collector robots also clean up cow muck in an area not accessible to visitors. A Juno robot provides the cattle with constant access to fresh silage grass feed and operates both inside and outside the main cow shed on an hourly basis. Teachers should note that the yard gates will remain open for farm vehicles during the day. If due to the nature of any pupils this is a problem, it must be discussed ideally in advance of a visit. Clear instructions are given to pupils to walk as the ground may be uneven or muddy.

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● Barbed wire and fences, Electric shock from fences in the fields ● Injuries caused by animals – scratches, bites, pecks and being knocked over ● Allergic reactions ● Transmittable diseases/zoonoses e.g. E.coli 0157, Lyme disease, cryptosporidium, leptospirosis, avian flu, toxoplasmosis, ringworm ● Risk of toxoplasmosis ● Silage smell making visitors feel sick ● Hazardous plants	Pregnant women All visitors	Groups are reminded to look, walk, and not touch barbed wire fencing or stand on any fence or gate. <u>1 field has an electric fence to restrict the cattle</u>, and school groups do not enter this area. Instructions given to approach animals quietly and gently. Pupils are only allowed to feed animals considered to be docile under close supervision. Normally visitors will stay outside the sheep paddock, pig sty & cattle pens. Teachers are asked to notify in advance of known allergies e.g. to nuts, eggs, wheat etc. If any signs of a reaction are observed during a visit the individual should be removed from that part of the farm and probably returned to the classroom. Usual school meal guidelines apply for packed lunches eaten in the classroom re food allergies. All staff to follow Access to Farms code of practice 'Advice to Teachers & Others who organise farm visits for schools'. <u>Updated April 2021</u>. Initial session will emphasise hand washing with warm water & soap after touching animals & feed, & before eating & drinking. Close supervision of pupils when using toilets & sinks. Food will <i>only</i> be eaten in the classroom. At the end of a visit staff will be expected to support their pupils in washing wellingtons. Visitors are reminded not to touch animal faeces, any contaminated personal clothing will be rinsed & disinfectant sprayed. Pregnant women to avoid contact with sheep during lambing time, seek advice from the Farm Teacher. Smell explained as a natural process, affected visitors can be removed from the area. 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.
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• Contaminated water in Centre or from farm or field troughs • Trapping fingers in doors • Slip and falls while walking around the farmyards and adjoining countryside/ woodland • Accidents on road (Icknield Street) outside the farmyard 5. TRAVEL/TRANSPORT 6. EMERGENCY PROCEDURES • Accidents to any pupils or adult visitors • Fire		Statutory monthly internal water checks are made in the classroom building facilities. Rainwater taps are clearly labelled. Only the kitchen tap is to be used for drinking purposes. Movement around the centre and through doors to be supervised by adults especially with younger children. Close adult supervision of all pupils when outside the classroom. At least one adult should carry a mobile phone and first aid kit while outside the immediate yard, in the fields or surrounding area. Single file walking along Icknield Street. High vis jackets are recommended to be worn at least by front & rear adult. Some schools RA insists on all pupils wearing high vis jackets on school trips. All groups are 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 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.
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• Danger from escaped animals in farmyard, fields, or adjoining land • Centre Manager/Teacher suffers sudden illness or injury • Outbreak of Foot and Mouth or other transmittable diseases and infections on this or nearby farms • Transmission of avian flu from wild birds to poultry. • Adverse weather conditions - winter ice on lane, farmyard, or snow • Summer temperatures leading to risk of heat stroke as farm has little shade in the fields or yard		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 & return to classroom until farmer & Centre Manager/Teacher deem it safe to return outside 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. The farm would be immediately closed to <u>all</u> visitors & schools would be notified. Daily liaison between farmer & Centre staff to follow all government guidance, schools will be kept informed. Depends on the level of risk as declared by Defra and APHA. If Avian Flu restrictions are imposed in this area, chickens must be fed/watered away from wild bird contact and kept in the covered area. Our rebuilt chicken housing meets the maximum Defra/APHA Avian Flu standards. Guidelines on appropriate clothing available at the farm. Centre Manager to advise coach company & school if lane is unsafe for access. The level of risk will be continuously assessed Revised summer programme will include extra drink breaks and time indoors. Visitors are advised to bring their sun caps/hats.
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Date of assessment 7th September 2026

Review Date September 2027 or earlier

Signed.....

Centre Manager

Approved.....

MPSF Trustee

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Print Name....Nina Hatch

Date.....