

RA046 — Farm vet science

Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · Risk assessment (Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999)

Activity: Home Education Hub session: animal health checks, body condition scoring, and how medicines and records work on a farm

Programme: Home Education Hub — Home Ed at the Ark, term-time Wednesdays 11am–2pm

Assessment date: 20/08/2026 · Assessor: Liberty Naylor · Review: annually, after any incident and before each new term

Site: Naylor's Ark Soul Sanctuary · CPH 46/327/7111 · Vet: 608 Equine & Farm Veterinary Surgeons · Read with HSP-01, SSOW-01, RA031 biosecurity and the Home Ed session safety and hygiene checklist

Hazard	Who may be harmed	Control measures in place	Residual risk
Access to veterinary medicines, needles and sharps	Learners	No learner handles any medicine, needle, syringe or sharps container at any point; the medicine cabinet stays locked and demonstrations use empty, needle-free equipment only; sharps bin kept out of reach; RA034 medicines controls apply.	Medium
Misunderstanding — learners attempting health checks at home	Learners, animals elsewhere	Session framed clearly as observation, not treatment; learners told repeatedly that only a vet or a trained keeper administers anything; no dosing, injecting or foot-trimming demonstrated on a live animal with learners handling.	Low
Contact with a sick, isolated or recently treated animal	Learners	Only healthy animals used for the activity; isolation pens and any animal within a medicine withdrawal period are out of bounds and signed; hands washed between each animal; RA031 biosecurity controls apply.	Medium
Distress at discussion of illness, injury or euthanasia	Learners, parents	Content pitched to the age group and flagged to parents in advance; learners may step out at any time with a parent; a quiet space available; the team avoids graphic detail and images.	Low
Animal contact — bites, knocks, treads, startling	Learners, parents, staff	Only animals cleared for public contact on the roster; a member of the team present throughout; approach from the side, calm voices, no running or chasing; no head handling where the roster says so; no entry to paddocks with unsettled animals; RA015 general visit controls apply.	Medium
Zoonoses and infection (E. coli O157, cryptosporidium, ringworm)	Learners, parents, staff	Hand-washing with soap and hot water after animal contact and before any food or drink; no eating, drinking, thumb-sucking or phone use in animal areas; cuts and grazes covered; supervised wash station signed and stocked; RA031 biosecurity and zoonoses controls apply; anyone unwell asked to rebook.	Medium
Supervision and safeguarding of children	Learners	Parents and carers remain responsible for their own children and stay with them at all times; learners never left alone with an animal or a volunteer; ratio confirmed at booking; DBS-checked lead on site; concerns reported to the sanctuary lead the same day and to the local authority safeguarding team within 24 hours.	Low
Slips, trips, uneven ground and weather	All present	Route checked and swept before the session; suitable footwear and outdoor clothing stated at booking; wet or muddy sections coned or avoided; walkways kept clear of hoses, buckets and tools; shaded and sheltered space available; RA037 adverse weather controls apply; session shortened or postponed in high wind, ice or heat.	Low
Allergies, medical needs and mobility	Learners, parents	Allergies, medical needs and mobility captured on the family registration and reviewed before each session; seated and at-distance options always offered; families keep their own medication (inhalers, antihistamines, auto-injectors) with them; first aider on site with a stocked kit; MNA-01 medical needs assessment applies.	Low
Emergency, fire or animal escape during a session	All present	Site safety briefing and sign-in at the gate before every session; assembly point, fire point, first aid kit and toilets shown at the start; gates closed behind every person; register held by the lead; incident, near miss or animal concern reported and	Low

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		logged in the app the same day.	