

RA047 — Sanctuary stories and rescue journeys

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

Activity: Home Education Hub session: discussion and creative work on rescue journeys, welfare and why the sanctuary exists

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
Distressing content — neglect, cruelty and loss	Learners, parents	Stories told age-appropriately with no graphic images or detail; parents told the theme in advance; learners may leave the circle at any time; the session always closes on the animal's positive outcome; quiet space and a team member available afterwards.	Medium
Personal disclosure prompted by an emotional topic	Learners, parents, staff	Team trained to listen without probing and to hand disclosures to the safeguarding lead the same day; no personal contact details exchanged; family informed unless doing so would place a child at risk.	Medium
Seated indoor or barn-based session — heaters, cables, crowding	All present	Seating laid out with clear exit routes; cables taped or routed away from walkways; heaters guarded and never left unattended; capacity of the space respected; fire exits pointed out at the start.	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 logged in the app the same day.	Low