

RA042 — Sheep, fleece and wool

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

Activity: Home Education Hub session: meeting the flock, handling raw and washed fleece, and simple wool craft

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
Sheep movement — barging, treading, knocking over	Learners	Sheep handled by trained team members only; learners meet sheep over a hurdle or in a penned area with an adult between; no chasing, cornering or riding; small groups of no more than four at the pen at a time.	Medium
Raw fleece — lanolin, dust, dirt, orf and ringworm risk	Learners, parents	Only clean, skirted fleece offered for handling; visibly soiled fleece removed; anyone with broken skin uses gloves or handles washed fleece only; thorough hand-washing after handling; families told orf presents as scabby lesions and to seek advice if unwell.	Medium
Craft tools — carders, needles, scissors	Learners	Carders and scissors used seated at a table with an adult present; sharp needles not used with under-8s; tools counted out and back in; cuts treated by the first aider and recorded.	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