



# The Learning Farm - Infection Control Policy

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<b>Effective date:</b>	01/09/2025
<b>Review date:</b>	01/08/2026 (annually)
<b>Related documents</b>	Safeguarding Policy Student and staff expectations document Environmental Policy Emergency Policy Infection Control policy Fire Risk Policy Health & Safety Policy

## Purpose

This policy sets out measures to prevent and control the spread of infection among pupils, staff, visitors, and animals. It ensures a safe, nurturing environment for therapeutic sessions and protects the health of all who attend the farm.

## Scope

- Pupils attending 2-hour pony care sessions
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and contractors

- Horses, ponies, and donkeys on the livery yard

## **Key Principles**

- Promote good hygiene practices at all times
- Minimise risk of zoonotic infections (animal-to-human)
- Ensure prompt response to illness or suspected infection
- Maintain clean and safe facilities

## **Responsibilities**

- Farm Manager: Oversees infection control measures and ensures compliance.
- Session Leaders: Enforce hygiene rules during pupil sessions.
- Staff/Volunteers: Model good practice and support pupils.
- Pupils/Visitors: Follow hygiene instructions and report illness.

## **Infection Control Measures**

### **Hand Hygiene**

- Handwashing facilities with soap and warm water available in stable yard and classroom.
- Pupils and staff must wash hands:
  - Before and after animal contact
  - Before eating/drinking
  - After using the toilet
- Alcohol-based hand sanitiser available as backup.

### **Animal Contact**

- Animals regularly checked by a vet for health issues.
- Sick animals isolated and not used in sessions.
- Pupils supervised at all times when handling animals.
- No food or drink consumed in animal areas.

## **Cleaning & Disinfection**

- Stables, tack, and equipment cleaned regularly.
- High-touch surfaces (door handles, grooming tools) disinfected daily.
- Classroom areas cleaned before and after sessions.

## **Illness & Exclusion**

- Pupils, staff, or visitors with symptoms of infectious illness (e.g., diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, respiratory infection) must not attend until 48 hours symptom-free.
- Staff to monitor pupils during sessions and respond promptly to signs of illness.

## **Protective Equipment**

- Gloves available for staff when cleaning or handling waste.
- First Aid kits stocked with disposable gloves and antiseptic wipes.

## **Waste Management**

- Animal waste disposed of safely in designated areas.
- Clinical waste (e.g., used dressings, gloves) placed in sealed bags and disposed of appropriately.

## **Communication**

- Hygiene rules displayed in classroom and stable yard.
- Parents/guardians informed of infection control measures.
- Incident reports completed for any infection-related issue.

## **Training**

- Staff trained annually in infection prevention and zoonotic disease awareness.
- Pupils briefed at start of sessions on handwashing and safe animal contact.

## **Review**

This policy will be reviewed annually or after any infection outbreak. Updates will reflect changes in legislation, veterinary guidance, or farm operations.