



# The Learning Farm- Fire Risk Policy

<b>Operational Owner</b>	Nicky Cummings
<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

## Premises Overview

- **Type of site:** Care farm with therapeutic sessions for pupils
- **Animals:** Horses, ponies, donkeys, rabbits, and guinea pigs (livery yard and small animal housing)
- **Activities:** Basic pony care programme, supervised handling, yurt-based learning sessions
- **Buildings:**
  - Stables
  - Hay/feed storage
  - Tack room
  - **Yurt** (learning space)

- **Tractor shed**
- **Bedding barn**
- **Livery barn**
- **Main barn**
- **Wellness centre**
- Small animal hutches/pens

## **Fire Hazards Identified**

- Combustible materials: Hay, straw, bedding, feed sacks, wooden structures, small animal bedding (wood shavings, straw)
- Ignition sources: Electrical equipment, heaters, lighting, machinery, smoking materials (prohibited)
- Animal areas: Stables, barns, and hutches with bedding and feed increase fire load
- Human activity: Pupils and staff moving between yurt, barns, and small animal areas

## **People at Risk**

- Pupils (children/young people, some with additional needs)
- Staff and volunteers
- Visitors and contractors
- Emergency services attending site

## **Animals at Risk**

- Horses, ponies, donkeys
- Rabbits and guinea pigs housed in hutches/pens
- Risks: smoke inhalation, burns, panic/escape during fire

## **Existing Fire Safety Measures**

- Fire detection & alarm: manual alarm points in yard and barns

- Escape routes: Clearly signed, kept clear of obstructions; assembly point designated in the **car park**
- Firefighting equipment: Extinguishers (water, CO<sub>2</sub>) located in barns, tack room, and stable yard
- Smoking policy: Strictly prohibited on site
- Training: Staff trained annually in fire safety and evacuation procedures
- Animal safety: Animals not moved unless safe; staff trained to secure them if possible
- Emergency plan: Documented and displayed; pupils briefed at start of sessions

## Risk Evaluation

- Likelihood: Moderate (due to presence of hay/straw, bedding, and electrical equipment)
- Severity: High (risk to vulnerable pupils, staff, and animals; potential property loss)
- Overall risk rating: Significant – requires ongoing control measures

## Additional Control Measures Required

- Regular electrical safety checks (PAT testing, wiring inspections)
- Hay, straw, and small animal bedding stored in separate, ventilated areas away from ignition sources
- Fire doors and extinguishers checked monthly
- Termly fire drills including staff and pupils
- Clear signage for assembly point in car park and escape routes
- Emergency lighting in barns, and wellness centre
- Staff refresher training on animal evacuation procedures, including small animals

## Emergency Procedures

- Raise alarm and call 999 immediately
- Evacuate pupils to **car park assembly point**; session leaders account for all attendees
- Do not attempt to move animals unless safe and trained
- Farm Manager liaises with Fire Service
- Incident recorded and reviewed within 24 hours

## **9. Review**

- Assessment reviewed annually or after any fire incident/near miss
- Updates made to reflect changes in farm operations, legislation, or risk profile