



## Environmental and Sustainability Policy and Procedure

Bale's Farm C.I.C. is committed to protecting the local environment and use of the Outdoor Education site at Normans at Dacombe to promote environmental education. Staff will promote a sense of responsibility and understanding for the environment, by raising both student awareness and appreciation.

Respect for all at Bale's Farm, the environment, the animals, the students and staff that work at Bale's Farm are paramount to the ethos and philosophy here at Bale's Farm C.I.C. Issues raised will be discussed with staff, the Educational Lead Practitioner and the Director as and when changes occur over time.

To ensure that Normans at Dacombe is maintained as an environmental outdoor learning facility, the Director and Educational Lead Practitioner will ensure that sustainable use of Bale's Farm will be facilitated by maintaining an ecological impact assessment; and managing access according to monitoring of the site.

- Bale's Farm will operate in compliance with all relevant environmental legislation and we will strive to use pollution prevention and environmental best practices in all we do.
- Bale's Farm will reduce waste through re-use and recycling and by purchasing recycled, recyclable or refurbished products and materials where these alternatives are available, economical and suitable
- Bale's Farm will promote efficient use of materials and resources throughout the site, including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable
- Bale's Farm will communicate our environmental commitment to staff, students and the public and encourage them to support it, through training & awareness.
- Bale's Farm will strive to continually improve our environmental performance and minimise the social impact and damage of activities by periodically reviewing our environmental policy in light of our current and planned future activities.

To ensure the above are in place, the Educational Lead Practitioner and the Director will:

- Monitor human and animal footfall on the land and address activities as appropriate to give areas of the land to rest, especially during heavy periods of rain and when muddy areas become impassable.
- If over-use is ascertained in any area of the Bale's Farm, then another area will be identified to allow for recovery of existing site, to be decided and implemented by the Educational Lead Practitioner and the Director.
- Restocking of animals and planting of trees and shrubs will be discussed with staff but will be the direct responsibility of the Educational Lead Practitioner and the Director to ensure that Bale's Farm is kept for the environment and conservation of natural species.
- The Educational Lead Practitioner will monitor over interaction/ over stimulation of the animals working with students. Animal facilitated learning activities should be a joint and chosen experience for both students and animals and should be a calm and respectful experience.

- Students/ staff will be discouraged from harvesting materials from areas of Bale's Farm, unless shown to be sustainable and should be authorised by the Educational Lead Practitioner.
- Any fauna collected e.g., during mini beast hunts, should be handled carefully and replaced in their original habitat as soon as possible, if the bug house is unsuitable for them to be rehomed too.
- Wildlife habitats at Bale' Farm should be subjected to minimal disturbance.

### **Activities**

The Educational Lead Practitioner and the Director will oversee the development of Bale's Farm and the activities conducted, to work symbiotically with the farm animals and wildlife habitats.

All activities should educate about the environment, land management activities will have this at its core in working on the land. Animal facilitated learning activities will work with the land wherever possible to support animals feed, bedding and develop enrichment activities for the animals.

All activities will look to engage a deep nature connection, respect for the environment and/or appreciation of natural land-based crafts.

In planning activities, staff should ensure:

- Low environmental Impact
- Educational activities to promote environment education and support for wildlife
- No artificial resources/ plastic resources to be used for activities wherever possible
- Animal facilitated learning experiences to be genuine and respectful.

