# Behaviour Policy for Alternative Provision at Little Clayhill Farm

*Including Anti-Bullying, Child-on-Child Abuse, and Online Safety*

## 1. Aims

At Little Clayhill Farm, we are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and inclusive environment where children and young people can thrive. This policy outlines our approach to promoting positive behaviour, preventing bullying, addressing child-on-child abuse, and ensuring online safety.

## 2. Principles

Our behaviour policy is based on the following principles:

- **Respect**: Everyone deserves to be treated with respect, including peers, staff, animals, and the environment.

- **Safety**: We are committed to ensuring the physical and emotional safety of all children, both on-site and online.

- **Responsibility**: We encourage learners to take responsibility for their actions and to contribute positively to our farm community.

- **Inclusion**: Every child, regardless of background, has the right to be included and supported in a safe learning environment.

## 3. Code of Conduct

All learners are expected to:

- **Treat others with kindness**: No bullying, harassment, or harmful behaviour will be tolerated.

- **Follow farm safety rules**: Listen to instructions from staff, especially around the use of tools and interactions with animals.

- **Be responsible online**: Stay safe and respectful in all digital interactions.

- **Report concerns**: If they see or experience bullying, child-on-child abuse, or any other harmful behaviour, they must report it to staff immediately.

## 4. Anti-Bullying Policy

**Bullying** is defined as deliberate, harmful behaviour that is repeated over time and intended to hurt or intimidate another person. It can be physical, emotional, verbal, or online (cyberbullying). We take all forms of bullying seriously and will address them promptly and effectively.

- **Types of Bullying**:
  - **Physical**: Hitting, pushing, or physically intimidating another child.
  - **Emotional**: Name-calling, spreading rumours, exclusion from activities or groups.
  - **Cyberbullying**: Bullying through the use of technology, including social media, messaging apps, and online platforms.

**Procedures for Dealing with Bullying**:

- All incidents of bullying will be investigated by staff.
- The victim will be supported and protected from further harm.

- The aggressor will be spoken to and supported in understanding the impact of their behaviour. Appropriate consequences will be applied, which may include temporary exclusion from activities.
- Restorative conversations will be encouraged between the victim and the perpetrator where appropriate, with the aim of resolving conflict and restoring relationships.

**Preventative Measures**:
- We promote an anti-bullying ethos through regular discussions, activities, and workshops on kindness and respect.
- Staff are trained to recognise signs of bullying and intervene early.
- Peer mentoring and buddy systems may be used to support vulnerable children.

## 5. Child-on-Child Abuse

We recognise that child-on-child abuse can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, or coercive behaviour. This type of abuse is never acceptable and will be treated seriously.

**Examples of Child-on-Child Abuse**:
- Physical violence or threats of violence.
- Sexual harassment or inappropriate sexual behaviour.
- Emotional abuse or manipulation, such as gaslighting or controlling behaviour.

**Procedures for Responding to Child-on-Child Abuse**:
- Any concerns or incidents of child-on-child abuse must be reported immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).
- Staff will sensitively but thoroughly investigate all allegations.
- Victims will be supported with appropriate care and confidentiality.
- The perpetrator will be held accountable and offered support to change their behaviour.
- If necessary, external agencies, such as children's services or the police, will be contacted.

**Preventative Measures**:
- Education on healthy relationships, consent, and boundaries is incorporated into our curriculum.
- Staff actively promote a culture of respect and empathy, where harmful behaviours are challenged.

## 6. Online Safety

With increased use of technology, it is crucial that children are aware of the risks online and are taught how to stay safe. We aim to educate students on the importance of responsible digital behaviour and ensure their online interactions are positive and respectful.

**Online Safety Guidelines**:
- **Respectful Communication**: Children must treat others with respect online, just as they are expected to in person. Cyberbullying is not tolerated.
- **Personal Safety**: Learners are taught not to share personal information online, such as their location, contact details, or any sensitive information.

- **Reporting Concerns**: Children are encouraged to report any inappropriate online behaviour or content to a staff member.
- **Use of Technology**: During farm activities, personal devices should only be used with permission. Children are not allowed to record or photograph others without their consent.

**Staff Responsibilities for Online Safety**:

- Staff will model appropriate online behaviour and educate learners on safe digital practices.
- All staff are trained to recognise the signs of cyberbullying and respond appropriately.
- The farm will ensure that any devices used by children on-site (e.g., for educational activities) have appropriate filters and monitoring systems in place to prevent access to harmful content.

**Parental Involvement**:

- Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's online behaviour and discuss safe internet use at home.
- We will provide information sessions and resources to parents on online safety best practices.

## 7. Encouraging Positive Behaviour

We encourage positive behaviour in the following ways:

- **Praise and Recognition**: Good behaviour, acts of kindness, and cooperation will be acknowledged and praised regularly.
- **Incentive System**: We may implement reward systems where learners can earn privileges or rewards based on positive behaviour.
- **Restorative Conversations**: We focus on resolving conflicts through understanding and discussion, encouraging learners to reflect on their behaviour.

## 8. Managing Challenging Behaviour

We manage challenging behaviour through:

- **Clear Warnings**: Staff will give clear, consistent verbal warnings if a child's behaviour is inappropriate.
- **Time-Outs**: If behaviour continues to be disruptive or unsafe, children may be given a short break to reflect on their actions.
- **Restorative Approach**: After any incident, a restorative conversation will be held to help the learner understand the impact of their behaviour.
- **Parent/Guardian Involvement**: Persistent behaviour concerns will be discussed with parents/guardians, and support strategies will be agreed upon.

## 9. Serious Incidents

- In the case of serious incidents, such as physical violence, bullying, or child-on-child abuse, the following actions will be taken:
  • Immediate intervention to ensure safety.
  • Documentation of the incident and investigation by staff.
  • Contact with parents/guardians and, if necessary, external safeguarding agencies.

• Appropriate consequences, which may include temporary exclusion from the programme.

- **Animal Welfare Breaches:**
  Any deliberate act of harm or cruelty towards animals on the farm will be treated with the utmost seriousness. Intentional harm to an animal may result in the *permanent termination of a learner's placement* at Little Clayhill Farm.

- This is in accordance with the requirements of our Animal Activities Licence for the Exhibition of Animals, regulated under the **Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018**. These regulations mandate that animals must be protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease, and that anyone interacting with animals must always treat them with respect and care. Breaching these standards not only endangers the welfare of animals but also violates the legal and ethical framework within which we operate.

## 10. Health and Safety Considerations

Given the farm setting, all children must:

- Follow safety guidelines when interacting with animals or using tools.
- Stay within designated farm areas.
- Report any accidents or injuries to staff immediately.

## 11. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains effective and relevant. Regular monitoring of behaviour, bullying incidents, and safeguarding concerns will be carried out, and feedback from staff, children, and parents will be used to improve our approach.

---

This comprehensive behaviour policy supports our commitment to fostering a safe, respectful, and positive environment at Little Clayhill Farm, both on-site and online.