



# River Bourne Community Farm Education



## Background

River Bourne Community Farm has been operating since 2010 and is a Community Interest Company situated on 80 acres of water meadows, paddocks and arable land on the outskirts of Salisbury. We are on Wiltshire Council's list of approved Alternative Education Providers and are an approved BTEC Centre. We currently have groups of both primary and secondary aged pupils who attended day courses on the farm.

We have been successfully providing alternative educational provision on the farm for nearly 10 years and our experience is that pupils who are more difficult to reach, have learning or behavioural issues, have autism or Asperger's, are non-attenders or are home-educated benefit enormously from spending time on the farm each week. We see a noticeable increase in confidence and self-esteem and greater team-working and social skills which is reported to translate to a more positive experience when they are back to the school environment.

## Primary Provision

The farm provides KS2 pupils with an excellent outdoor space for learning. For identified pupils, the farm can provide activities and learning opportunities that fit around the schools' curriculum, where required. Activities include animal care, horticulture, the environment, habitats, nature and art projects, science and maths projects.

## Secondary Provision

Our aim is to provide KS4 students with practical and vocational skills to enable them to progress into further education or employment. We have had particular success with students who are interested in working in land-based industries, are poor school attenders, have special needs, or who are not engaging in the school environment. 100% of those completing courses at the farm have achieved a Level 1 or 2 BTEC qualification. Our experience is that spending time at the farm increases confidence in pupils and gives them valuable skills with which to progress in their chosen careers.

For those pupils who are in KS3 we can offer an Entry Level 3 qualification or just provide activities that engage them and enhance their current learning within the curriculum.

## Facilities

- We have a wide range of mainly rare-breed livestock on the farm: cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, donkeys, alpacas, and a range of poultry and game. A recent addition is a variety of birds of prey.
- The Long Barn which houses a range of small animals, reptiles and insects as well as an egg collecting and processing area
- We have a fully equipped straw-bale classroom with interactive whiteboard and wi-fi access.
- An Engineering Workshop on the site of an old farm building. Students are able to learn about repairing and maintaining a variety of machinery.
- Allotment area

## Courses

Students can attend the farm for one day a week to do short courses for one term or long courses for up to two years. We are approved by Edexcel to offer the following BTEC courses:

**Level 1** - Care of Farm Animals, Land-Based Studies, Vocational Studies

**Level 2** - Animal Care, Countryside & Environment

## Education Manager

Sara-Jane Hancock has been teaching and managing education on the farm for 10 years. She has a First Class Honours Degree in Technology and Environmental Studies. She was recently awarded the Community Engagement Award at the Salisbury Journal Education Awards.



Please ring or email **Sara-Jane Hancock** if you would like to discuss any future education requirements you may have.  
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