

R.E.K. ROWLANDS & PARTNERS
THE GRANGE
WARRINGTON ROAD
MICKLE TRAFFORD
CHESTER
CH2 4EB

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Email huw.rowlands145@btinternet.com

HOW TO FIND US

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps?f=q&hl=en&geocode=&q=CH2+4EB&ie=UTF8&z=16&iwloc=addr>

We are open for visits from groups of up to 30 by appointment throughout the year. Catering can be provided at the nearby Nags Head pub. Coach and car parking facilities are available at both sites.

- We are located 4 miles from Chester on the A56.
- We rear rare breed Red Poll and Red Poll cross cattle which are run as a beef suckler herd.
- There are poplar tree plantations of 20 acres.
- We grow a small amount of low input spring barley.
- The farm is traversed by the River Gowy and various other, smaller watercourses.
- Seasonal activities include calving, hay and silage making, pasture topping, hedging and ditching.
- We are in the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme, through which we are creating a network of footpaths and a bridleway and restoring hedges, ditches, ponds, woodland, an old green lane and an orchard, as well as creating and maintaining habitat for wetland and wading birds.
- A copy of our risk assessment is available for inspection, and we are fully insured through the N.F.U. Mutual.
- Wellington boots are essential. Please ensure that everyone in the group has appropriate outdoor wear for the season and weather conditions.
- Funding for visits is available through the Higher Level Stewardship Scheme.
- We can arrange transport for you through our associates at First Private Hire.
- Catering can be provided at the Nags Head.
- Guided tours of Grade II Listed Trafford Water Mill can be arranged as part of a visit.

Huw Rowlands

ROWLANDS RED POLLS AT THE GRANGE

BOOKING FORM

Name of Organisation:

Contact Name:

Address:

Telephone No:

Fax No.

Email Address:

Number in Party:

Number of Children:

Ages of Children:

Any Special Needs:

Date of Visit:

Tour of Trafford Mill (Yes / No):

Meals at The Nags Head (number required):

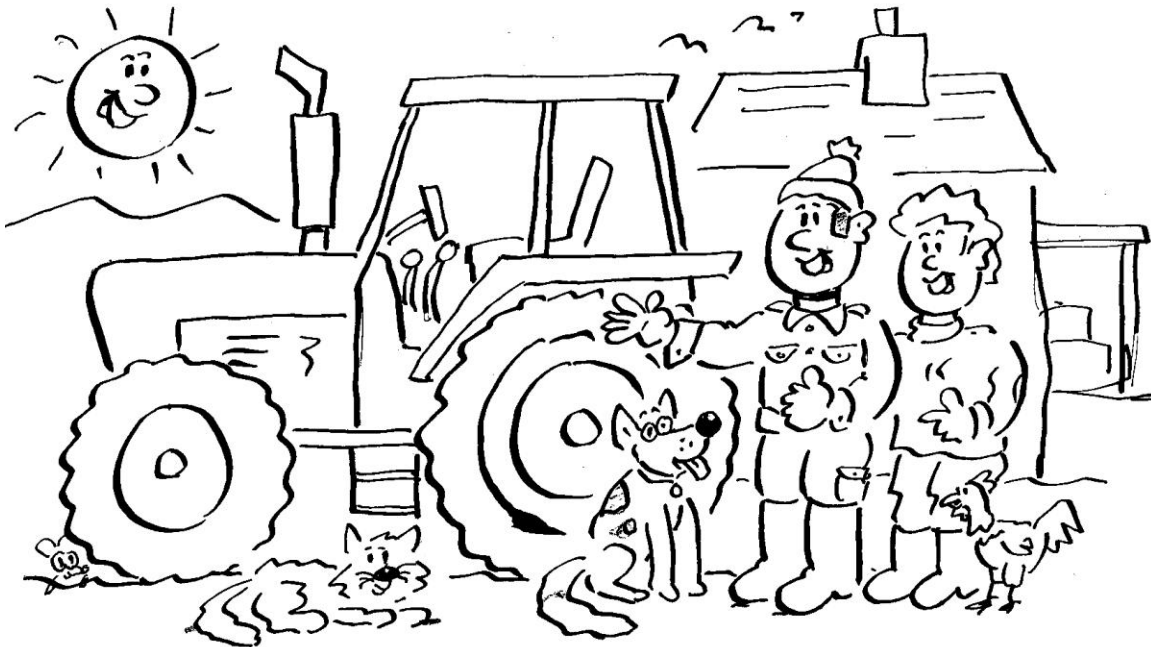
Coach Transport Required (Yes / No):

Areas of Interest & Purpose of Visit:

Please return completed form to Huw Rowlands at The Grange, Warrington Road, Mickle Trafford, Chester CH2 4EB. Fax 01244 300710; Email huw.rowlands145@btinternet.com

Preparing for your farm visit

www.redpollbeef.eu



Welcome

Thank you for your interest in visiting our farm. We hope that the experience will give your children inspiration and information about parts of the curriculum that are sometimes difficult to teach in a classroom environment.

The visit allows children to see for themselves how a modern farm works, in an enjoyable and safe environment.

This pack will help you to prepare a successful programme tailored to suit the needs of your group.

What is farming?

Farming is the age-old practice of producing crops and livestock for food, fuel and fibre. The origins of human civilisation are closely linked to the development of farming when primitive hunter gatherers were gradually replaced by farmers producing the first domesticated plants and animals.

Modern agriculture is a highly competitive global industry. The UK produces 70% of the food we eat, the rest coming from other parts of the world. It is the first link in a sophisticated chain to prepare and process our food before we buy it in the shops. What a farmer grows depends on individual circumstances such as location, weather conditions, size of the farm, history of the area and market forces.

Farming has created the landscape that we see. It is the hedges and walls that divide fields that give the landscape its pattern, along with areas of trees and the colours of different crops. Even though they do not necessarily earn any money by activities such as cutting hedges and planting trees, farmers are helping to look after much of the wildlife in the countryside.

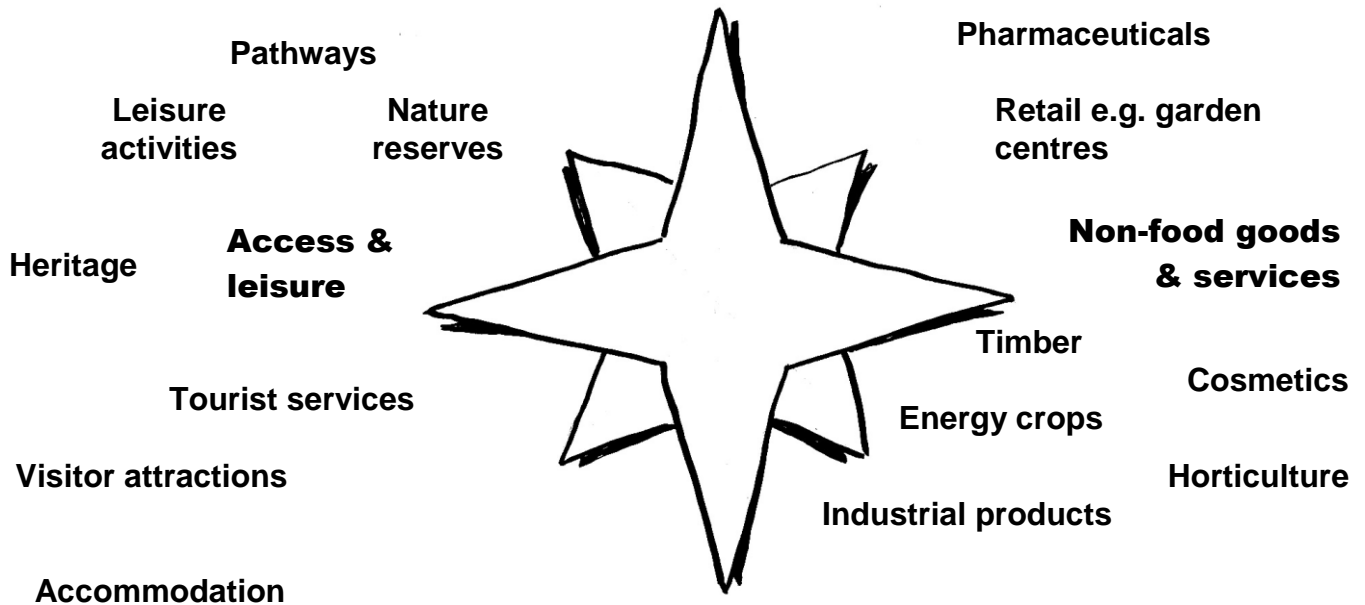
Many farms, including ours also now operate broader enterprises to include leisure activities and environmental care. DEFRA provides advice and funding through agri-environmental schemes to encourage biodiversity by creating and maintaining wildlife habitats, to conserve the landscape and to protect archaeological and historic features.

The countryside offers an invaluable teaching resource. The visit can be used to learn about farming and the countryside through the full range of curriculum subjects. We hope that this information pack will give you ideas to inspire your pupils and get the most out of your visit.

Scope of Work

Vegetables
Food processing Retail e.g. farm shops
Co-operatives Herbs Dairy products
Drinks and beverages Farmers' markets Speciality products

Sugar Food production & services Cereals

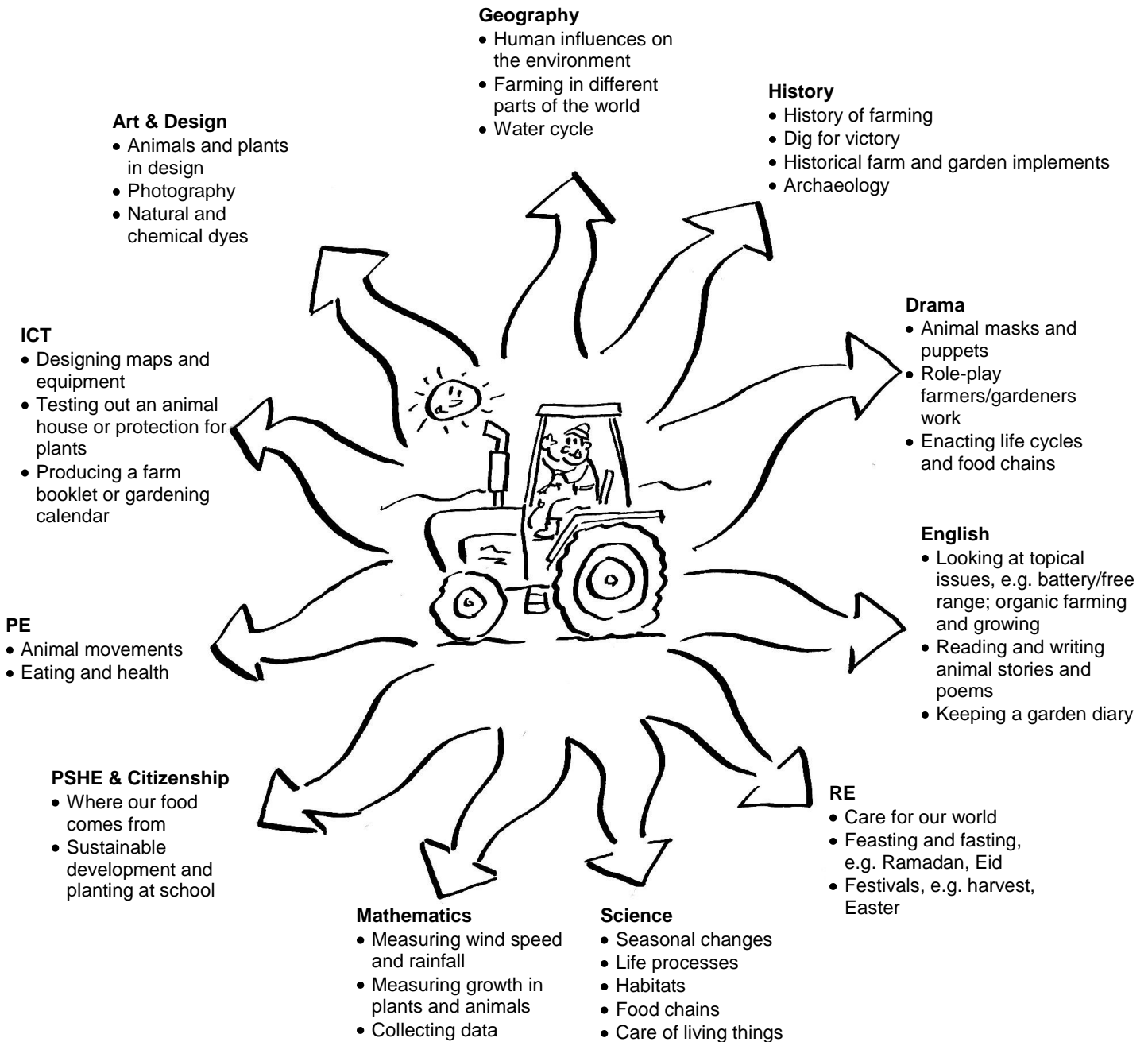


Environmental management

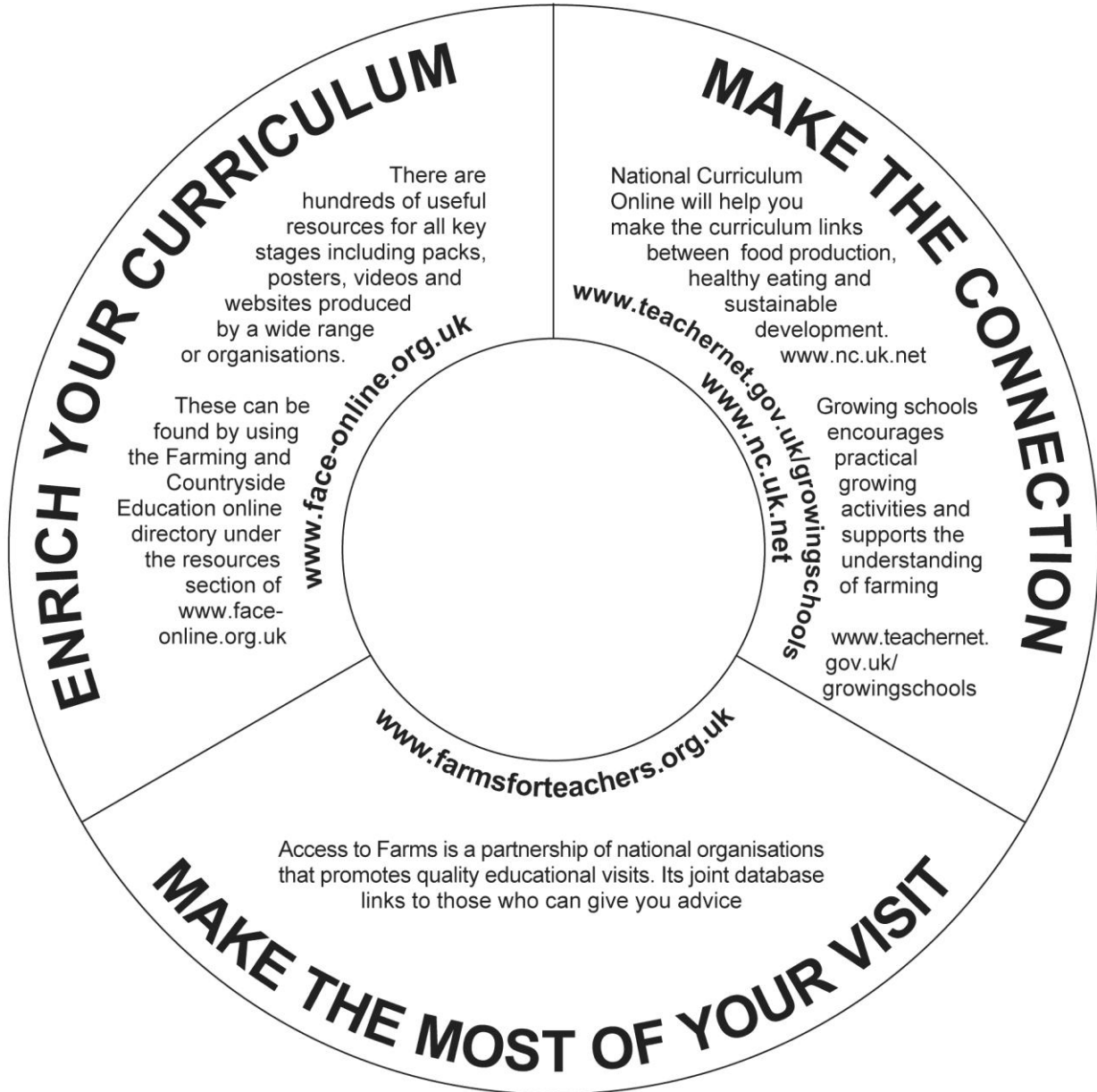
Woodlands Wildlife conservation
Archaeological conservation Habitat maintenance & creation
Landscape management

Learning opportunities

There are many ways in which farming and growing can enrich the curriculum. Some examples have been provided by the DfES initiative called Growing Schools.



Sources of further information



Here are a few ideas to get you started.

At Key Stage 1 the farm visit can widen the pupils' first-hand experience in a whole range of **visual, tactile and other sensory situations**. Within this are the important messages of **the life cycle** and **seasonal change**. There is a wealth of opportunity for **language development** and **literacy skills**.

At Key Stage 2 the visit can stimulate and excite pupils' curiosity. It also satisfies their curiosity as they begin to **apply their knowledge and understanding** of ideas. Pupils can consider the farm as a good example of **an environment affected by human activity**, think about **attitudes to farming**, the rural environment and the **conflicts of interest** that arise.

They talk about their work and its significance and **communicate their ideas** using a **wide range of language**.

At Key Stage 3 many different subject requirements can be satisfied. For example in history, the adaptation of farm buildings over the centuries can offer first-hand evidence of **social and technological changes**. This readily promotes the skills of **handling and assessing**. Pupils can **investigate and debate** a wide range of **complex issues** and begin to understand the **environmental, social and economic** implications.

At Key Stage 4 farm visits can be used to deliver examination subjects

both academic and vocational. Contact with farmers will help to focus on the real life **application of skills within the workplace**, engaging pupils with **contemporary issues** and focusing on their role as users and consumers.

Things to remember when visiting the countryside

Risk assessment

We advise a pre-visit to our farm, during which you can carry out a risk assessment and become familiar with the site. A copy of the farm's risk assessment is available on request and can be downloaded from our website.

Clothing

Ensure staff and pupils wear appropriate outdoor clothing, including sturdy shoes or wellingtons, not sandals.

Behaviour

Teachers/group leaders are responsible for the children's behaviour throughout the visit. The children should understand how to behave on the farm (see guidelines on page 11) and always follow the Countryside Code. (see page 12)

Health & safety

We comply with health and safety regulations, and details of facilities for hand washing, etc., are provided later in this booklet. However, it is important that all children and supervising adults are aware of the correct health and safety guidelines.

The risk of infection is very small, but the disease caused by an infection could be serious. By following the simple guidelines, which are similar to everyday basic hygiene recommendations, the risk can be easily minimised. The Health & Safety Executive has produced guidelines about avoiding ill health at open farms (HSE sheet AS1S23).

Advice to teachers

The supplement to AIS23 Avoiding ill health at open farms – Advice to farmers, advises teachers and others who organise visits for children to farms on controlling the risk of infections from the animals the children may contact during their visit.

All animals naturally carry a range of micro-organisms, some of which can be transmitted to humans, where they may cause ill health. Some infections which may be contracted on farms, such as the bacterium *Escherichia coli* O157 (*E coli* O157), present a serious hazard and potentially cause severe disease, which may be particularly acute in young children.

While the hazard from infection resulting from a farm visit is real, the

risks are readily controlled by everyday measures. The following sensible steps will help make your visit even more safe, healthy and enjoyable.

Before your visit:

- Read and understand the advice in the main AIS23 information sheet, and discuss visit arrangements with the farm management. Assure yourself that the facilities provided match the recommendations in AIS23
- Decide what the ratio of pupils to teachers/assistants/parents should be, using advice from the Registration and Inspection Unit of your local authority social services department. As a general rule, the ratio of supervisors to children should be 1:1 for children under 1 year old, 1:2 for children between 1 and 2 years old, 1:3 for children between 2 and 3 years old, 1:4 for children between 3 and 5 years old, and 1:8 for those between 5 and 8 years old. If supervision levels are less than this, you should not allow direct contact with the animals for children under eight
- Discuss with the supervisors, who may be parents or staff of the school, crèche, etc., their role during the visit. They must understand the need to make sure that the children wash, or are helped to wash, their hands thoroughly after contacting animals, and follow the other rules suggested below

- Discuss with pupils the rules for the visit, stressing that they must not eat or chew outside the areas in which you permit them to do so
- Make sure that pupils wear appropriate clothing, including sturdy outdoor shoes (not sandals) or wellington boots if possible
- Check that cuts, grazes, etc., on children's hands are covered with a waterproof dressing.

During and after the visit, make sure that the children:

- Do not kiss animals
- Always wash their hands thoroughly before and after eating, after any contact with animals and again before leaving the farm
- Eat only food that they have brought with them, or food for human consumption that they have bought on the farm, in designated areas, and never eat food which has fallen to the ground, or taste animal foods
- Do not suck fingers or put hands, pens, pencils or crayons, etc., in mouths
- Clean or change their footwear before leaving, remembering to wash their hands after any contact with animal faeces on their footwear.

Check that the children stay in their allocated groups during the visit, and that they:

- Do not use or pick up tools (e.g. spades and forks) unless permitted to do so by farm staff

- Do not climb on to walls or animal pens, etc.
- Listen carefully, and follow the instructions and information given by the farm staff
- Approach and handle animals quietly and gently
- Do not chase, frighten or torment the animals.

Remember:

- The children are your responsibility during the visit
- You should supervise them during the visit, especially during hand washing, to make sure that each child washes thoroughly. Farm staff may be able to help with this supervision
- Allow plenty of time before eating or leaving so that the children do not have to rush.

If a member of your group shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their parent/guardian to visit the doctor and explain that they have had recent contact with animals.

Further information

Extra copies of this information sheet and supplement are available free from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 2WA.

Tel: 01787 881165 Fax: 01787 313995.

Website: www.hsebooks.co.uk

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How to behave on the farm

Walk with your group leader. It is safer and will not frighten the animals.



The animals have a balanced diet, so avoid feeding them unless asked to.

Climbing on walls, fences or animal pens is dangerous.



Eating animal feed could make you ill.

Do not handle farm equipment or machinery.



The Countryside Code

[Be safe, plan ahead and follow any signs](#)

[Leave gates and property as you find them](#)

[Protect plants and animals and take your litter home](#)

[Keep dogs under close control](#)

[Consider other people](#)

http://www.countrysideaccess.gov.uk/things_to_know/countryside_code