



## Core Creative Education CIC

### ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY Policy & Procedure

*Explore - Create - Learn – Grow*

CORE Creative Education is committed to protecting the local environment and using the Outdoor Education site at Limemead Farm 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 the Farm, the environment, the animals, the students and staff that work at the Farm are paramount to the ethos and philosophy at Core Creative Education. Issues raised will be discussed with staff and the Education Manager and Director as changes occur over time.

To ensure that Limemead Farm is maintained as an environmental education facility, the Director and Education Manager will ensure that sustainable use of the Farm sites will be facilitated by maintaining an ecological impact assessment; and managing access according to monitoring of the site.

- We 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.
- We 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
- Promote efficient use of materials and resources throughout the Farm, including water, electricity, raw materials and other resources, particularly those that are non-renewable
- Communicate our environmental commitment to staff, students and the public and encourage them to support it, through training & awareness.
- 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 Education Manager will:

- Monitor human and farm 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 Farm, then another area will be identified to allow for recovery of existing site, to be decided and implemented by the Education Manager and Trustees.
- Restocking of animals, relocation and planting of trees and shrubs will be discussed with staff but will be the direct responsibility of the Education Manager and Director to ensure the Farm is kept for the environment and conservation of natural species.
- The Education Manager 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.



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- Hedgehogs being cared for at the Halstock Hedgehog Rescue based at the Farm, should only be cleaned, fed, weighed and assessed in direct accordance with the Education Manager. These are wild animals and the Halstock Hedgehog Rescue in partnership with the Dorset Mammal Group: Rescues, Rehabilitates and Releases Wild Hedgehogs in accordance with other Hedgehog Rescue Centres and no petting of these animals is permitted.
- Students/ staff will be discouraged from harvesting materials from areas of the Farm, unless shown to be sustainable and should be authorised by the Education Manager.
- Students/ staff will only work on the pathways in the woodland camp area and will only harvest materials in direct consultation with the Education Manager (eg. Cutting hazel poles, willow)
- No tractors will be used on the land in wet conditions – to prevent damage to the paddock areas
- Any fauna collected eg. during mini beast hunts, should be handled carefully and replaced in their original habitat as soon as possible.
- Wildlife habitats at the Farm should be subjected to minimal disturbance.

#### **Activities**

The Education Manager will oversee the development of the 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 should engender a deep sense of nature connection, respect for the environment and/or appreciation of natural land based crafts.

In planning activities, facilitators 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.

Signed: *Rachelle Green* (Director)

Name: Rachelle Green:

Date 1/1/2020

This policy will be reviewed annually, or as and when there are any changes in the law, procedures