

Health & safety notes for school visits

These points (plus any others you think of) must be covered with your group before the start of each visit. There are no exceptions. Health and Safety is of paramount importance.

In general, our aim in terms of health and safety is never to expose children to situations that they cannot safely cope with. Try to be aware of potential dangers at all times. You will no doubt find your own ways to convey the following points – be firm but do not scare anyone too much.

Hands

All children must wash their hands **with soap** after contact with animals, visit to lambing shed, before lunch and before departure. Additionally it is very important that children keep their hands away from their faces until they have been washed. (warn children not to chew or lean on fences where there is obviously muck).

Cuts and Grazes

These must be covered with plasters before starting the visit to prevent risk of infection.

Eating and Drinking

Only in designated areas. Do not eat anything that has fallen on the ground.

Moving Vehicles

Stress that this is a working farm and that there will be vehicles about. Instruct children and adults to be vigilant at all times.

Animals

Children should be told that they do not need to approach any animals on the farm unless they are comfortable with doing this. This should always be under supervision.

Noise

Ask children to keep noise levels down whilst around the farm. You can compare the barn at lambing time with a human hospital and the need for peace and quiet there. As well as benefiting the animals, it is important that adults can be alerted quickly if there has been an accident.

Dogs

Warn children not to approach any dog on the farm at any time. Explain that they are working animals and not pets.

Danger Areas

Be particularly careful and instruct the children to do likewise around the following sites: **[insert your sites here]**

Fire

Groups must be told what the procedure is in case of fire and where the meeting point is. **[insert your details here]**

Allergies

Ask children if they suffer from any allergies, e.g. dust from the grain store. Make sure the teacher or helper who is with you knows about any cases and has appropriate medication. Make a mental note yourself.

Pregnant Adults

Check to see if any of the adult helpers are pregnant. If so they should be told that there is a risk of miscarriage from entering the lambing shed and having contact with the animals. Advise them not to go in.

Finally, children (and adults!) should be made aware of the importance of:

- Staying close to the leader of their group.**
- Listening and paying attention at all times.**
- Asking whenever they are unsure about anything**