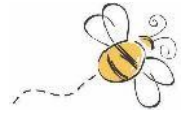


Church Farm



Education & Group Visits



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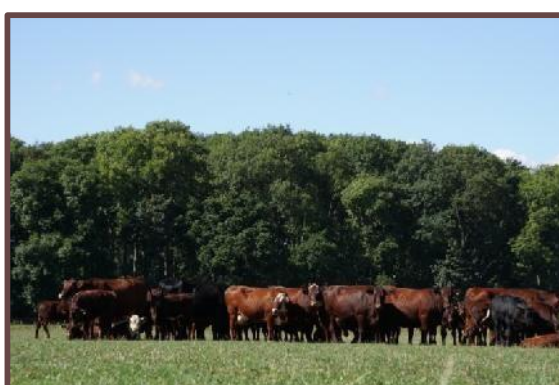
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Church Farm field to fork experience

Church Farm lies in the historic village of Ardeley and was once a dairy farm owned by a milkman. In 1958 the Waygood family moved to the farm and over time they have transformed the land to produce every variety of animal, vegetable and fruit possible. Church Farm is now home to many animals including sheep, cattle, pigs, chickens, geese, ducks and turkeys, as well as kitchen gardens growing over 200 varieties of vegetables and herbs. Our orchards and soft fruit enclosure house 10 bee hives and grow a little bit of 'every berry' as well as 130 varieties of fruit including apples, gages, plums, cherries, quince, medlar, pears, damsons and mulberries. Between the fields you will discover ancient woodland, clay pits and ponds that are home to an abundance of wildlife. There are many beautiful walks to enjoy around the farm and plenty to see and hear!



A visit to Church Farm is like no other – it is a working farm with a focus on reconnecting people with the land. Our farm is a community interest, not for profit, social enterprise set up in 2008 to develop services that enhance the wildlife, create social benefits and produce community goods. Over the years it has become a place for thousands of visitors as well as community events, education and social care.

Farming and countryside education

Experience learning in the great outdoors at Church Farm - with its diverse landscape, field to fork ethos and free-range livestock, Church Farm provides a safe and secure environment to learn about farming, sustainability and nature.

We work with mainstream and SEN schools to create tailor-made educational experiences both inside and outside of the classroom that are exciting, practical, motivating and fun.

Benefits

Outdoor, land-based education activities and discussions provide avenues for achievement as well as opportunities to develop independence and build self-esteem. By reconnecting with the land around us, we can inspire, engage and educate your students about not only the journey from farm to fork but also the ever-changing and diverse world of farming.

Through successfully facing up to the challenges that outdoor activities provide and overcoming fears and apprehensions along the way, young people make major strides in confidence, with implications for all aspects of their development. It contributes to their personal growth and social awareness and develops skills for life and the world of work.

Tailor your experience

We can create an individual day trip that will offer opportunities to learn through real farming experiences and adventures. You can combine curriculum-based learning opportunities with fun farm-based activities.

Please let us know what your requirements are and we will try and build you a suitable package.



Visit Packages

We can tailor packages to suit your group and needs - we offer Activity Days, Curriculum Days and Farmer Experience Days based on the activities and learning opportunities available on the farm.

A typical visit to the farm will include:

- Use of our Events and Education Center
- Coach or minibus parking
- Experienced and DBS checked staff leading the groups
- Refreshments provided for staff
- Health and safety information and risk assessments
- Age appropriate activities and handouts
- Up to 4 hours here at the farm (10am-2pm)
- A structured itinerary based on individual and educational needs



Facilities and Resources

Toilets and Hand-washing Facilities: There are toilets on site located outside the Education Centre. We have male and female toilets and handwashing facilities as well as a fully accessible toilet located onsite. We also have a designed boot-washing area for the end of the visit.

Farm Shop: We have a farm shop which sells our produce seasonally, including fruit, vegetables, eggs and meat.

Café: Our cafe is open every day 9-5pm. We sell hot and cold drinks, breakfast and lunch, cakes and snacks. (Please let us know if you require a menu to be sent through)

Classroom: We have an Events and Education Centre on site that schools and groups can use as part of their visit package, alternatively it can be rented as a base room for self-directed visits at a cost of £100 +VAT per visit. Please contact us directly to discuss and to book this.

Staff: We have a range of experienced staff who will be leading your groups and organising your day. Church Farm is predominantly volunteer run and has a number of individuals who are part of the farm's internship programme as well as a number of dedicated volunteers to assist in running and delivering projects.

Designated Eating Areas: If you would like to have lunch on the farm please notify us beforehand as eating is only allowed in designated areas.

Protective Equipment: There are some Wellington boots and gloves available upon request. Please contact us directly about this to discuss.

NOTE: There are some areas on the farm which are not for public access. These are clearly signed; please do not allow the children or staff to enter these areas.

Activity Days
£12.95 per
student

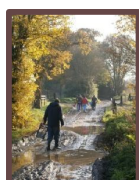
Activity Days

Activity days provide fun farm-based activities that allow students to access real farming and make links to curriculum-based learning at school. We can accommodate up to 35 students depending on farm staff availability for an Activity Day – large groups may need to be split in to smaller groups and rotated around the activities. Visits of fewer than 16 students will be charged a flat rate of £207+VAT. Choose up to 3 activities to make up your day and we will create an itinerary based on your specific needs and requirements. A full day will include a morning break and a lunch break.

Activity	Season
Egg Collecting	All year
Guided Farm Tour	All year
Hands on Horticulture	All year
Lamb Feeding	April – May
Wildlife Workshop	All year
Wool Workshop	All year

Activities

Egg Collecting – Students will have the opportunity to feed our 300 egg laying chickens, learn how to handle them and collect their eggs. They will find out how we care for the chickens before seeing the process of sorting and grading the eggs to prepare them for sale in the farm store.



Guided Farm Tour – Students will explore areas of our 175 acre farm with one of our experienced staff. Each individual will receive a bag of animal feed to feed the animals at the designated points around the farm. There will be the opportunity for questions and explanations about the farm and how it operates.

Hands on Horticulture – Students will find out about the fruits and vegetables that we grow on the farm and how we tend to them throughout the seasons. There will then be a seasonal horticulture activity for students to complete which could be sowing seeds, planting out, harvesting fruit or vegetables or maintaining vegetable beds.



Wildlife Workshop – Wildlife is important to the sustainability of our farm. For this activity, students will find out the ways in which wildlife contributes to the success of a farm before working in teams to build wildlife habitats, bug hotels or bird and butterfly feeders to encourage the wildlife to thrive on the farm.

Lamb Feeding – Small groups of students will have the opportunity to feed our lambs. These will be lambs that are unable to be cared for by their mother and therefore the number of lambs needing to be fed will vary from year to year and we cannot guarantee that each person will get to feed their own lamb. Each group will have the opportunity to spend time in the pen with the lambs and ask any questions. This activity is not suitable for visits of more than 30 children per day due to the available feeding times of the lambs.



PLEASE NOTE IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR TRYING FOR A BABY WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THIS ACTIVITY AND ADVISE THAT YOU DO NOT PARTICIPATE



Wool Workshop – Students will find out about how we care for our sheep through the seasons and obtain wool from their fleeces. They will have the opportunity to see and feel examples of wool from the farm, and find out about the ways in which we use it. Students will then have the opportunity to make something in groups using traditional weaving techniques.

**Curriculum Days
£15.95 per student
plus VAT**

Curriculum Days

Curriculum Days provide fun farm-based activities that allow students in KS3-KS5 to learn in a practical environment while covering content required for the subject specifications they are studying at school. We can accommodate up to 35 students for a Curriculum Day depending on farm staff availability – large groups may need to be split into smaller groups and rotated around the activities. Visits of fewer than 16 students will be charged a flat rate of £255+VAT. A bespoke itinerary of activities will be planned based on the subject content you would like to cover and the activities and learning opportunities available on the farm. A full day will include a morning break and a lunch break.

Examples of subject areas we have supported with a Curriculum Day at the farm include GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition and GCSE Art and Design. Please contact us to discuss your requirements.



Staying safe during your visit

Responsibilities of the Farm

- To provide a Health & Safety pack of information to the group before the visit.
- To create a safe, welcoming and informative environment.
- To plan an itinerary for the day.
- To ensure someone is available to deliver the planned activities.

Responsibilities of the Group

- To ensure that all members of the group are well behaved during the visit.
- To provide enough staff to supervise the group.
- Ensure that all members of the group wash their hands and arms thoroughly with soap and water.
- To arrive at the arranged time.

It is important that all members of the group 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 (see Health & Safety pack). This advises all group leaders on controlling the risk of infections from the animals the group members may come in to contact with during their visit. Please take the time to read the risk assessment that will be provided before your visit (see Health & Safety pack) before visiting. A member of staff will also give a brief introduction to Health & Safety when the group arrives.

During the visit, please make sure that all individuals:

- Do not kiss any animals
- Do not put fingers in or near their mouths
- Do not climb on the animal fencing
- Do not chase, frighten or torment the animals
- Always wash their hands and arms with hot water and soap before leaving the farm and before eating or drinking
- Clean or change their footwear before leaving
- Listen carefully and follow the instructions given by farm staff

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 visited the farm.

Hand gels are no substitute for hand-washing on farm visits

Hand gels have their use in areas which are generally clean, for example offices or hospitals, but they are not effective in killing bugs such as E. coli or cryptosporidium which can be found in animal droppings and on contaminated surfaces around farms.

Visitors with additional needs

At Church Farm we want to ensure that visitors with special educational needs get just as much out of the experience as anyone else. The outdoor farm environment is a very stimulating way to interact with nature and enjoy the trust and companionship of animals. We have made a number of enhancements and adjustments that will help all visitors share equally in this experience.

The following information outlines the facilities we've put in place to help our visitors with special educational needs. We've also covered what we expect and need from you.

In many cases, special educational needs are very individual so, if you don't find the answers to your particular questions, please contact us.



Our team and facilities

SEN qualified and experienced staff: Our staff are all experienced in organising activities and learning experiences for individuals with special educational needs. Not only can we lead each visit with special educational needs in mind, our experience enables us to advise on planning the visit in advance, anticipating and allowing for how needs may often change on the day.

Fully accessible WC: We have a fully accessible WC onsite.

Wheelchair accessibility: We are a 175 acre working farm where accessibility can become challenging especially during the winter months. If you have anyone with mobility issues or someone that uses a wheelchair or mobility aid please let us know in advance as we do have some areas of the farm that are adapted to suit such visitors. We can tailor your visit to the mobility of the individuals in your group.

Church Farm Recommended Kit List

Please note, regardless of what time of year you visit Church Farm, the following 3 items are recommended, and we would not expect visitors to come without:

- A good waterproof jacket – large enough to fit over several layers of clothing
- Waterproof over trousers or a change of trousers
- Wellington boots

We would also recommend depending on the time of year:

Plenty of layers of warm, comfortable old clothing (jeans are not good for outdoor activities as they do not dry quickly), non-cotton tracksuit type clothing is best. Clothing that can be worn in many layers is much more flexible, and allows adjustment to the weather and conditions.

Thick socks (including a long thick pair to wear with wellingtons)

Outdoor shoes such as trainers, walking boots or wellington boots (designated to only be worn out on the farm)

A change of shoes to go home in

A warm coat (if waterproof jacket is a thin material)

Sun cream and sun hat

Spare plastic bags to take home dirty laundry, muddy waterproofs and muddy wellies

If your group will be visiting the farm shop, bring some pocket money (usually £3 to £5 is ample). We sell snacks, sweets and other small gift items.

Please ensure all personal items are **clearly labelled**



Booking a visit

If you would like to book a visit or enquire about a potential visit, please get in touch using the contact details below and we will endeavor to get back to you promptly.

Contact us

Church Farm
Ardeley
Hertfordshire
SG2 7AH

01438 861447

Email: ruralcareinfo@churchfarmardeley.co.uk

www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk

Please let us know the following information:

1. Group size
2. Age group
3. Proposed date(s) and time of your visit
4. The type of package you are interested in
5. Any additional needs
6. Name and contact details of main contact
7. Any questions you have

**We look forward to
seeing you soon!**

