

# Wild Mind Well-Being Student Handbook

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## Welcome to Wild Mind Well-Being

We are delighted to welcome you to Wild Minds Alternative Provision, a unique, farm-based learning environment where we focus on holistic education through a blend of hands-on experiences and academic learning. This handbook is designed to help you understand the expectations, routines, and opportunities available to you during your time here.

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## Our Values

At Wild Minds, we are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and engaging environment for all students. We expect everyone to contribute positively to our community by following the guidelines set out in this handbook. Your cooperation ensures that all students can learn, grow, and thrive during their time with us.

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## Daily Schedule

Students attend Wild Mind Well-Being on a part-time basis between half a day and four days a week. The schedule below outlines how our day will run:

- **09:40 - 10:00** Arrival and Welcome (Students can settle in before the day begins)
- **10:00 - 10:15** Morning Meeting (Overview of the day, group check-in)
- **10:15 - 11:15** Session 1 – Animal Care (Hands-on practical experience)
- **11:15 - 11:30** Break
- **11:30 - 12:15** Session 2 – Theory-based learning (Animal care, land-based studies, construction, or life skills)
- **12:15 - 12:45** Lunch (Packed lunch to be stored in the fridge if needed)

- **12:45 - 13:30** Session 3 – Practical or theory-based session (Depending on individual student programs)
- **13:30 - 13:45** Break
- **13:45 - 14:15** Golden Time (Choice-based activity, relaxation, personal development time)
- **14:15 - 14:40** Pack Up and Feedback (Reflection on the day, feeding animals, preparing for departure)
- **14:30** Home Time

Each student also receives **mentoring time** as part of their program, either **1:1 or as a group**.

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## Daily Expectations

### Appropriate Footwear & Clothing

Given the nature of our environment, it is essential that you wear suitable footwear at all times. You are required to wear:

- **Steel toe-capped boots or steel toe-capped trainers** – Essential for safety when working around animals and construction areas.
- **Wellies or walking boots**

*Note: Open-toed shoes, sandals, or any other type of inappropriate footwear are not allowed.*

- **Layers** A waterproof layer is recommended year round. You will be doing wet and dirty jobs.
- **Appropriate clothing** – Dress in suitable outdoor, hands-on activity attire. Legs must be covered.
- **Gloves & PPE** – Provided but you may prefer to bring your own.

### Personal Appearance

To ensure safety and practicality:

- **No false nails** – They can pose a safety risk when working with tools or animals.

# Conduct

## Code of Conduct

At Wild Mind Well-Being, we are committed to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment for all students. The following expectations are in place to support your wellbeing and learning experience:

### General Conduct

- Treat all staff, peers, animals, and the environment with respect.
- Follow instructions from staff and ask if you're unsure about anything.
- Attend your agreed sessions on time and let us know if you're going to be absent.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the activities and weather.

### Relationships and Boundaries

- Romantic or sexual relationships between students are **not permitted during sessions or on site**.
- This policy is in place to safeguard vulnerable young people, maintain focus on learning and wellbeing, and prevent dynamics that could impact the emotional safety of others.
- You are expected to behave respectfully and maintain appropriate peer relationships during all activities.
- If you feel uncomfortable or concerned about any relationship—your own or someone else's—you are encouraged to speak to a trusted staff member. All disclosures will be handled sensitively and in line with our safeguarding and confidentiality policies.

### Respect for Others

- We celebrate diversity and expect everyone to treat each other with kindness and understanding.
- Bullying, harassment, or discrimination of any kind will not be tolerated.

### Use of Devices

- Personal phones and devices should be kept away during sessions unless agreed with staff for specific use. You may check your phone at lunch time, other than permitted use it must be kept in the safe.

## Substance Use

- Smoking, alcohol, or drugs are not allowed on site under any circumstances.
- Vapes must be handed in for safekeeping until the end of the day.

By attending Wild Mind Well-Being, you agree to follow this Code of Conduct to help us create a safe and positive space for everyone.

## Phone Policy

- All mobile phones must be placed in designated storage drawers before activities start.
- Phones can be collected at **lunch and at the end of the day**.

## Stay with Your Coach

- Students must remain with their designated group leader at all times.
  - Parents and carers must remain with a staff member during visits.
  - All visitors must sign in at the office.
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# Learning Opportunities

We offer a variety of hands-on courses designed to equip you with valuable skills and knowledge, including:

## 1. Animal Care

- Learn how to care for farm animals, domestic pets, equines, and exotics.
- Develop a deep understanding of animal behaviour and welfare.

## 2. Construction

- Gain practical skills in basic carpentry, masonry, and tool handling.
- Learn about safety protocols in a construction setting.

## 3. Life Skills

- Develop independence and confidence in managing daily tasks.
- Engage in life coaching and mentoring programs.

## 4. Land-Based Studies

- Explore sustainable agriculture and horticulture.
- Engage in planting, harvesting, and environmental conservation activities.

Students can complete **ASDAN Short Courses & AQA Unit Awards**. Each student will have a program developed to match their abilities and interests.

Our Post 16 students study

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## Attendance and Punctuality

### Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial for your success. If you are going to be absent, please inform the staff as soon as possible. Frequent absences may impact your ability to participate in certain activities or complete courses.

### Punctuality

Arriving on time ensures a smooth start to the day. You are welcome to arrive up to **20 minutes early** to settle in before activities begin.

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## Health and Safety

### Emergency Procedures

- Follow all staff instructions in case of fire, severe weather, or other emergencies.
- Regular **safety drills** will be conducted.

### Medication

- If you require medication during the day, inform staff. All medications must be handed in for secure storage and taken under supervision.

### Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

- Inform staff of any allergies or dietary needs.
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# Respect and Community

## Respect for Others

- Be mindful of personal space, noise levels, and belongings.
- No bullying, harassment, or discrimination is tolerated.

## Animal Safety

- Always follow mentor instructions when interacting with animals.
- Do not feed or handle animals unless directed by staff.

## Respect for the Environment

- Keep the farm clean and dispose of waste properly.
  - Participate in **daily paddock maintenance and litter picks**.
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# Personal Responsibility

## Personal Belongings

- Do not bring valuables to the farm as we cannot be responsible for lost items.

## Work Ethic

- Approach all tasks with a positive attitude and put in your best effort.
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# Communication & Support

## Open Dialogue

- We encourage open and honest communication between students, staff, and parents/guardians.

## Check-Ins

- Regular check-ins will be held to discuss progress and set goals.

## Safeguarding Procedures

- If you have any concerns, speak to a trusted staff member. Confidentiality will be maintained where appropriate.
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## Additional Opportunities

### Workshops and Guest Speakers

- Throughout the term, we host workshops and invite professionals to share their expertise.

### Volunteering

- We encourage students to take part in community service projects to build skills and connections.
- Please ask if you would like help to find community volunteer opportunities.

### End-of-Term Review

- Reflect on achievements, areas for growth, and set goals for the future.
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We are excited to have you join us at Wild Mind Well-Being and look forward to helping you grow academically, personally, and socially. By embracing the opportunities available and following the guidelines in this handbook, you will have a rewarding and enriching experience.

If you have any questions or concerns, speak with a staff member or email [camilla@wildmindwellbeing.co.uk](mailto:camilla@wildmindwellbeing.co.uk)

**Let's work together to make this term a success!**