

Wild Minds Alternative Provision: 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 alternative provision where we focus on holistic education through a blend of hands-on experiences and academic learning. This handbook is designed to help you to understand the expectations, routines, and opportunities available to you during your time here.

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.

Daily Expectations

Appropriate Footwear

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.

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

Personal Appearance

To ensure the safety and practicality of our work, please adhere to the following guidelines:

- **No false nails:** These can pose a safety risk when working with tools or animals.
- **Appropriate clothing:** Dress in clothing suitable for outdoor and hands-on activities. Legs must be covered. You will get dirty, so plan accordingly.
- **Gloves:** Gloves & PPE are available but you may prefer to bring your own.

Conduct

To maintain a positive and safe learning environment:

- **No physical contact with other students or staff:** This is crucial for everyone's safety and comfort. This includes all forms of physical contact.
- **Full attention at all times:** We expect you to be engaged and focused during all activities. Distractions can lead to accidents, especially when working with animals or tools.

Phone Policy

Before we start any activities, all mobile phones must be placed in designated drawers. Phones will be securely stored during the day to ensure that you remain focused and present in all activities. You may collect your phone at lunch time and the end of the day.

Stay with Your Tutor/ Mentor

- **Supervision:** Students must stay with their designated group leader at all times. Wandering off alone or without permission is not allowed. This is crucial for your safety and helps us maintain an organised and secure environment.
- **Parents and Carers:** Parents and carers must remain with a member of staff at all times during visits. This ensures that all visitors are accounted for and supervised properly.

Daily Schedule

Students attend Wild Mind Well-Being on a part-time basis. The schedule below gives an indication of how our day will run. You may be in for some or all the day.

Morning Session

Your session will start at **10:00**. Students are welcome to arrive and settle from 09:40. This session runs until lunch time at **12:00**.

Lunch Break

If you are staying for lunch please bring a packed lunch. This can be stored in the fridge. Your lunch break will be from **12:00 to 12:30**. During this time, you are free to eat, relax,

and socialise with your peers. Remember to clean up after yourself and be mindful of the farm environment. You must be in sight of a member of staff at all times.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session starts at **12:30** and finishes at **14:30**. All students must be off site by **14:45**.

Learning Opportunities

At Wild Mind Well-Being, we offer a variety of hands-on courses designed to equip you with valuable skills and knowledge. These include:

1. Animal Care

- Learn how to care for farm animals, domestic pets, equines and exotics. This includes feeding, grooming, general husbandry, training and health monitoring.
- Develop a deep understanding of animal behaviour and welfare.

2. Construction

- Gain practical skills in basic construction, including carpentry, masonry, and tool handling.
- Understand the importance of safety protocols in a construction setting.

3. Life Skills

- Life coaching & mentoring.
- Develop independence and confidence in managing daily tasks.

4. Land-Based Studies

- Explore the principles of sustainable agriculture and horticulture.
- Engage in hands-on activities like planting, harvesting, and environmental conservation.

Students can complete ASDAN Short Courses and AQA Unit Awards. Each student will have a program developed for them that is appropriate to their abilities and interests.

Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance

Regular attendance is crucial for your success at Wild Mind Well-Being. If you are going to be absent for any reason, please inform the staff as soon as possible. Unexplained or frequent absences may impact your ability to participate in certain activities or complete your courses.

Punctuality

We expect you to arrive on time each day. Being late disrupts the start of the day's activities and can affect the entire group's schedule. Please ensure you are ready to begin promptly at the designated start time (10:00 for the morning/ full day session, 12:30 for the afternoon session). You are welcome to arrive up to 20 minutes early to settle.

Health and Safety

Emergency Procedures

In the event of an emergency, follow the instructions provided by staff. We will conduct regular safety drills so that everyone knows what to do in case of fire, severe weather, or other emergencies. Please take these drills seriously.

Medication

If you need to take medication during the day, please inform the staff. All medications must be handed to staff, stored safely and taken under supervision.

Allergies and Dietary Restrictions

Please inform us of any allergies or dietary restrictions you have. We will do our best to accommodate your needs, especially during meals and activities involving animals or plants.

Respect and Community

Respect for Others

At Wild Mind Well-Being, we value respect for all individuals. This includes respecting others' personal space, belongings, and opinions. We do not tolerate any form of bullying, harassment, or discrimination.

It is important to respect the personal space and needs of other students. Be mindful of noise levels and avoid running or making sudden movements that may startle others or the animals.

Animal Safety: Interacting with animals can be a rewarding experience, but it's important to follow the guidelines provided by your mentor. Please be gentle and respectful towards the animals. Do not feed or handle them unless directed by a staff member.

Respect for Our Animals: All of our animals have been rescued or rehomed. The farm is their home. Please do not follow or chase them. Wait for them to approach you. Respect their space if they choose not to.

Respect for the Environment

As part of our commitment to sustainability and environmental stewardship, we expect you to treat the farm and its surroundings with care. Dispose of waste properly, avoid unnecessary harm to plants and animals, and contribute to keeping our environment clean and safe. Each day there will be paddock maintenance and litter picks for all staff and students.

Personal Responsibility

Personal Belongings

You are responsible for your own belongings. Please do not bring valuable items to the farm, as we cannot be held responsible for lost or stolen items. Keep your personal space tidy and respect the belongings of others.

Work Ethic

We encourage you to approach all tasks with a positive attitude and a strong work ethic. Whether you are caring for animals, working on a construction project, or participating in a class, give your best effort. Your hard work will pay off in the skills and experiences you gain.

Communication

Open Dialogue

We believe in maintaining open and honest communication between students, staff, and parents or guardians. If you have any concerns, ideas, or feedback, please share them with us. We are here to listen and support you.

Check-Ins

We will hold regular check-ins to discuss your progress, address any concerns, and set goals. These meetings are an important part of your personal and academic development.

Additional Opportunities

Workshops and Guest Speakers

Throughout the term, we will host workshops and invite guest speakers to share their expertise in various fields related to our curriculum. These sessions are valuable opportunities to learn from professionals and explore new interests.

Volunteering

We encourage you to participate in volunteer opportunities and community service projects. These activities not only benefit the community but also allow you to develop new skills and build connections with others.

End-of-Term Review

At the end of each term, we will conduct a review to reflect on your achievements and areas for growth. This review will help you set goals for the future and ensure that you are making the most of your time at Wild Mind Well-Being.

We are excited to have you join us at Wild Minds Alternative Provision and look forward to helping you grow academically, personally, and socially. Remember, your experience at Wild Mind Well-Being is what you make of it. By embracing the opportunities available to you and following the guidelines in this handbook, you will be well on your way to a rewarding and enriching term. Let's work together to make this term a success!

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to speak with one of our staff members or email Camilla. We are here to support you every step of the way.

We are excited to see you grow and succeed at Wild Mind Well-Being!