

Sperrinview Special School

Policy for Horse Riding

Rationale

Horse Riding is a cross-curricular activity, which provides pupils with complementary learning experiences in an out of school setting. In addition it also provides an opportunity for pupils to build confidence by participating in the activities provided at Riding for the Disabled Association [RDA] at Moy Riding Centre - Argory.

Aims

- To provide a physical activity which can aid mobility and co-ordination
- To consolidate learning in a range of curricular areas.
- To provide a sensory experience for pupils.
- To enable pupils to build self-esteem and confidence.
- To promote a knowledge of and a healthy respect for horses and to assist with their care.

Organisation

Criteria for Participation

- Only pupils from 7-16 years old are eligible.
- Pupils in the Leavers' Group may only be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- A consent form must be signed by parents/guardians prior to commencement of the first session of this activity.
- A medical form signed by the pupil's GP must be completed and returned to school prior to commencement of the activity.
- A risk assessment must be carried out to ensure the safety of the pupil during this activity. If this process suggests that

there is a risk during any part of the activity, the pupil will not be offered this experience.

- For safety reasons, it is essential that any pupil participating in this experience can remain quiet and well behaved. This is necessary to avoid contributing to anything that may 'spook' the horses.
- Eligible pupils will be offered the choice of participating in this activity. Those who do not wish to attend will be exempt.

Pupils who are deemed eligible to participate in Horse Riding after consideration of the points above, may only expect to be offered this activity once or possibly twice in their school career.

Up to eight pupils may participate in a course. Each course will last one school year and will take place once a fortnight. Selection will be on a rotational basis.

During a course pupils may work towards attaining one or more of the following awards:-

Endeavour Award.

Horse Riding Grade 1

Stable Management Grade 1

Horse Riding Grade 2.

Roles and Responsibility

The class teacher is the co-ordinator for this activity.

Classroom assistants, trainees and students from other schools provide essential support to the class teacher and the volunteer staff at the Riding Centre. Without this support the activity could not take place for any pupil.

The Principal has ultimate responsibility for overseeing the policy.

Mrs A Magowan [tel: 028 87 23101] is the RDA group organiser and arranges all activities. Mrs H Burns and Mrs N Jordan lead the activities, with the assistance of other volunteers, in the indoor arena and on outdoor treks.

Staff Development

All staff assisting with the activity will have taken part in Moving and Handling training provided by EA Southern Region.

Miss Jordan will brief staff on their roles and responsibilities prior to commencement of the activity.

Resources

Transport
Moy Riding Centre
Horses
Indoor Arena
RDA Volunteers
Boots
Warm Clothing

External Support

EA Southern Region Moving and Handling Training Team
RDA Volunteers and Examiners
Transport Department
Students from local schools
Volunteers

Monitoring and Evaluation

The Horse Riding policy will be monitored and evaluated on an ongoing basis through consultation with pupils, staff and parents.

Review

A sub-committee of the Board of Governors will monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of this policy as part of a timetabled, on-going process.

Signed: _____ Date: _____