

Farm School Leader

Job Description and Person Specification

FARMS FOR CITY CHILDREN

Job Description – Farm School Leader

Summary

This is a hands-on role responsible for leading engaging countryside, food and farming sessions for groups of beneficiary children at Nethercott House, a smallholding with a productive garden and raising pigs, poultry, sheep, cattle, equines and bees.

As part of the wider farming operations team, the Farm School Leader will deliver knowledge rich farming and countryside sessions for visiting children as well helping with daily farming tasks and maintenance works.

As comfortable in wellies mucking out livestock as engaging with visiting children and teachers, this role requires a can-do attitude, endless positivity and enthusiasm, and a genuine passion for supporting disadvantaged children and young people to access the benefits of the countryside life.

The role requires the ability to undertake some work outside of 9 to 5 hours, including some weekend and lone working on a rota basis.

Responsibilities and Accountability

Main purpose of the job

- Support the farm management team to create a warm, child-centred environment in which all visiting children flourish
- Work closely with the farm management team to inform the development of appropriate children's activity sessions, propose best-practice operating procedures for all staff and volunteers, and where relevant, share knowledge and skills with the whole team
- Deliver children's countryside, food, and farming sessions
- Undertake a range of practical farming tasks and maintenance as required, including livestock care and tasks which are required to maintain a clean and safe site.

Farm Operations

- Regularly review the farm risk assessments and participate fully and proactively in H&S training, ensuring you have the knowledge and skills required to meet the requirements of the H&S policy
- Ensure animal welfare standards are maintained in line with the Charity's policies
- Ensure the Charity-wide and site-specific biosecurity and disease control policies are always followed, reporting any concerns to the farm management team immediately
- Undertake daily routine farm, garden and general site maintenance tasks to ensure a clean and safe site for our beneficiaries.
- Ensure safe working practices and policies are understood and always observed, proactively feeding back questions, suggestions and concerns to the Farm Operations Manager

Estate Management

- Support the management, maintenance and development of all grounds, properties, equipment and services.

Partnership working

- Maintain a warm, positive and professional relationship with the Charity's long-term commercial farming partners.
- Build supportive relationships with colleagues across all Farms for City Children sites, sharing knowledge and best practice and proactively seeking opportunities for learning and collaboration.

Farm School Activities

- Work closely with the farm management team to ensure the countryside, food and farming activities for visiting children are safe, stimulating and purposeful.
- Lead countryside, food and farming sessions for groups of visiting children, adopting the Charity's approach to ensure quality and excellence for all beneficiaries.
- Work closely with visiting teachers/accompanying adults who retain responsibility for pastoral care and behaviour to ensure that children participate as fully as possible in all sessions.

Strategy, Ethos, and Values

- Champion quality and excellence, seeking-out and sharing constructive feedback from beneficiaries to support the continual evolution of the operations at Nethercott House.
- Model the values and ethos of the Charity and ensure these are upheld at all times.

Continuous professional development

- Maintain a commitment to continuous professional development including undertaking professional and technical training as required by the Charity.
- Keep abreast of best practice, by developing links with other organisations in the sector, holding professional memberships, and participating in local and regional forums.

General

- Attend and contribute to operations, Health and Safety, and team meetings, proactively contributing ideas and suggestions in advance, and preparing thematic reports as required.
- Any other work as directed by the Farm Operations Manager, appropriate to the role.

These duties are not exhaustive and you will be required to undertake other duties outside of this job description as required to fulfil the role.

Person Specification – Farm School Leader

Training, Experience and Qualifications

Essential

- Relevant experience of working in a farming or outdoor learning environment
- Experience and confidence of working with livestock; (animals that relevant to Nethercott House are pigs, sheep, equines, poultry and cattle.
- Experience of complying with biosecurity requirements in a farming environment – although full training will be provided

Desirable

- Experience of working with children and undertaking training in Safeguarding
- Experience of using at least some of the following common farm and garden machinery (e.g. tractor, ride-on mower, strimmer, pressure washer).
- An interest in learning about beekeeping to ensure the health and wellbeing of our bee hives
- Training in H&S in a farming or outdoor learning environment

Knowledge and Skills

Essential

- An understanding of biosecurity and animal welfare
- An engaging communicator with the ability to connect with children of all ages
- A friendly and supportive colleague who fosters constructive and collaborative relationships across the Charity and seeks opportunities to share knowledge and learn from others
- Self-driven, with the ability to plan, prioritise and manage time effectively
- Calm under pressure

Desirable

- Knowledge and skills in the keeping of bees is desirable for this role.
- Existing skills in use of farm and garden machinery.
- Knowledge of local flora and fauna and an enthusiasm for farm-based conservation.
- An interest in childhood mental health, Special Educational Needs (SEN), and wellbeing.
- Experienced user of MS Word, MS Excel and MS Outlook
- Strong understanding of and proud advocate for diversity and inclusion
- Full driving licence