



Rainbow Horses

Learning Centre CIC

Volunteer Supervision Policy

Introduction

Volunteers bring a range of skills which can positively contribute to the experiences of our children and young people while at Rainbow Horses Learning Centre CIC. We do not typically have a large number of volunteers at any one time but welcome volunteers from a variety of areas to further enhance our learners' development when appropriate.

Volunteers can engage in a range of areas at Rainbow Horses. These include support with animal care and with learners. While working with learners, volunteers can engage in any of the various activities we support learners to access at Rainbow Horses.

Staff Responsible

All Staff

Aims

This policy aims to give clear understanding of how volunteers are supervised at Rainbow Horses Learning Centre CIC. It is essential that volunteers are appropriately supervised to ensure the effective safeguarding of our learners and to give volunteers the necessary support in their activities.

Becoming a Volunteer

Anyone wishing to volunteer at Rainbow Horses may approach the Sue Coombes (Managing Director) through phone or email which are provided on our website. They may also visit the site but are unlikely to be able to speak to anyone between the hours of 10am and 3pm due to learners on site. If a volunteer provides information suggesting their suitability as a volunteer they will meet informally with Sue Coombes and be able to begin voluntary work upon completion of the appropriate checks (DBS and reference checks), and familiarisation with our policies. All staff will work to support volunteers and the senior member of staff on any given day will be responsible for ensuring the volunteers understands their role and that they have a point of contact for any concerns.

Rainbow Horses Values

All volunteers are expected to uphold the values of Rainbow Horses Learning Centre as appropriate to our vision and mission statement:

Our Vision:

- To create a horse- and animal-focussed centre of excellence that leads the way in showing how valuing children and young people just as they are, validating their experiences and sharing joy in their passions can transform their lives.

Our Mission

- To create a space where autistic and traumatised children and young people feel safe to heal, learn and thrive on their own terms and are enabled to move forwards into fulfilling and happy lives.
- To model our values in the way we work with horses, and other animals: allowing choice and respecting diversity.
- To support families in accessing appropriate support for their children and to work with schools and other educational provision to provide the best learning environment for each child's individual needs.

Our Values:

Child-led, love, radical compassion, playfulness, acceptance, curiosity, empathy, safety in relationships and the environment, being mindful, mistakes as learning opportunities, trauma-informed, attachment aware, evidence-based approach informed by latest research in neuroscience and child development.

Confidentiality

All volunteers must maintain confidentiality and any concerns they have should be shared with a senior member of staff. No information regarding the learners should be brought up with persons outside the provision. Volunteers should also not communicate about the learners with parents/guardians without consultation with a senior staff member. We have many vulnerable learners with complex needs and care must be taken in dealing with concerns raised. Volunteers should raise any concerns about staff members with senior staff.

Supervision

Volunteers will always have several staff members on site to ensure they are supervised in their work. They should have a clear understanding of the kind of work they are engaging in with the learner and support in what activities this may involve. They will always have other staff members whom they can speak to for any support in their work.

Health and Safety

Volunteers will be informed about emergency procedures by the Health and Safety officer.

They must report any health and safety concerns to an appropriate staff member.

Safeguarding

Rainbow Horses has a responsibility to ensure the safeguarding of its learners. All volunteers are provided with safeguarding information and should report any concerns to the Designated Safeguarding Lead. They will also have an Enhanced DBS check before working with learners.

Signed: Reviewed on: September 2023

Next review due: September 2024