

Church Farm



Education & Group Visits



Church Farm
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Church Farm field to fork experience

A visit to Church Farm is like no other - it's a working farm with a focus on reconnecting people with the land.

A community interest not for profit social enterprise set up in 2008 to develop enterprises and services to benefit people, enhance the wildlife and show enterprise can be leveraged to create social benefits and community goods.

A farm of 7 fields has been transformed to produce from field to fork every variety of animal, vegetable and fruit possible, a place for 30000 visitors each year, events, education and social care



- New orchards of 8 acres, 130 varieties of fruit: apples, gages, plums, cherries, quince, medlar, pears, damsons, mulberries and more
- 2 acre soft fruit enclosure, a little bit of 'every berry'
- 200 Black Welsh Mountain, Suffolk & Lleyn sheep & rams
- 30 Red Poll cattle & bull plus followers
- British Lop, Large White & Berkshire breeding sows plus boars
- Light Sussex, Cuckoo Maran, Black Rock, Rhode Island and White Leghorn Laying hens
- Poulet Anglais outdoor reared poultry
- Norfolk Black turkeys
- Embden geese
- Aylesbury ducks
- 10 Bee hives & Apiary Garden
- 20 acres of new woods in-filled with wild cherry and hazel
- 2 acre walnut orchard
- 4 acres of wild bird seeds and pollen/nectar mix
- 30 acres of woods, including: 3 acres of ancient hornbeam coppice, 7 acres of established 60 year old woodland and 20 acres of mixed, mainly hardwoods, planted over the past 10 years
- 2 acres of rough nesting ground amongst a line of old clay pits
- 2 ponds established in 1996, two more flood ponds and a new pond in the vegetable gardens
- Beards Oak Kitchen Gardens: 8 acres growing over 200 varieties of vegetables and herbs

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Farming and countryside education

Experience learning in the great outdoors at Church Farm, with its diverse landscape, field to fork ethos and rare breed livestock Church Farm provides a safe and secure environment to learn about farming, sustainability and nature.

We work with mainstream and SEN schools to create tailor-made educational experiences outside of the classroom that are exciting, practical, motivating and fun.



Benefits

Outdoor and landbased education activities provide avenues for achievement as well as opportunities to develop independence and build self-esteem.

Through successfully facing up to the challenges which outdoor activities provide, overcoming fears and apprehensions along the way, young people make major strides in confidence, with implications for all aspects of their development. It contributes to personal growth and social awareness and develops skills for life and the world of work.

Tailor your experience

We can create an individual day trip that will offer opportunities to learn through real farming experiences and adventures. You can combine curriculum based learning opportunities with fun farm based activities. Please let us know what your requirements are and we will try and build you a suitable package.

Visit packages

We can tailor packages to suit your group and needs, we offer activity days, curriculum based visits, outreach days and volunteer experiences. We can create a bespoke itinerary based on the activities and learning opportunities available on the farm.

Groups need to be minimum 15 children or if less a standard day rate of £156.02 applies. We ask that there be no more than 60 people per visit, large groups will be split into smaller teams and rotated around activities. A typical visit will include:

- Use of our events and education center
- Coach or minibus parking
- Experienced staff leading groups who are DBS checked
- Refreshments provided for teachers and LSA's
- Health and safety information and risk assessments provided
- Structured itinerary provided based on individual and educational needs
- Age appropriate activities and handouts
- Up to 5 hours here at the farm

Facilities and Resources

Toilets and Hand-washing Facilities: There are toilets on site located outside the education centre. We have male, female toilets and handwashing facilities we have a disabled toilet also located onsite. We have a designed bootwashing area for the end of the visit.

Farm Shop: We have a farm shop which sells our produce seasonally, including fruit and vegetables as well as eggs from our chickens and meat from the farm.

Café: Our cafe is open every day 9-5pm. We sell hot and cold drinks, breakfast and lunch, cakes and snacks. (Please let us know if you require a menu to be sent through)

Protective Equipment: There are some Wellington boots and gloves available upon request. Please contact directly about this to discuss.

Classroom: We have an Activity Room on site that Schools and Groups can use as part of their visit package, alternatively it can be rented for the duration of visit for £50 (the room can be used as a base room for self-directed visits).

Please contact us directly to discuss and to book this.

Staff: We have a range of experienced staff who will be leading your groups and organising your day. Church Farm is predominantly volunteer run and has a number of individuals who are part of the farms internship programme as well as a number of dedicated volunteers to assist in running and delivering projects.

Designated Eating Areas: If you would like to have lunch on the farm please notify us beforehand. Eating is only allowed in designated eating areas and not in other areas around the farm.

NOTE: There are some areas on the farm which are not for public access. These are clearly signed; please do not allow the children or staff to enter these areas.

Activity Days

Non-curriculum and fun farm based activities allowing students to access real farming, there is a choice of seasonal activities based on age and ability. Choose up to 3 activities to make up your day, breaks and a designated lunch slot can be scheduled into the day. Typically the day will start at 9.30 with a health and safety briefing followed by activity 1, a short break then activity 2. Lunch would usually be scheduled for around 12.15pm the 3rd activity would then start again around 1pm, debrief and a roundup of the day would be at 2pm followed by bootwashing ending the day at 2.30pm.

**Activity Days
£7.95 per person**

Activity days can be combined with curriculum days to meet the needs of the students. Visits of more than 15 children may be split into groups and rotated around activities.

Activities (choose up to 3, max group sizes are based on activity, large groups can rotate around activities)

Egg Collecting		45 mins – 1 hour
Guided farm tour		1.5 hours
Hands on horticulture		45mins - 1 hour
Lamb feeding	April – May only	30 mins
Tractor & Trailer ride		30 mins
Den building	September -March	1 hour
Wildlife workshop		1 hour
Wool workshop		1 hour

Explanation of activities

Egg collecting – Collect fresh eggs laid by our 300 free range laying hens, individuals will have the opportunity to handle the chickens, collect their eggs, feed chickens. They will then see the process of sorting and grading the eggs to prepare them for sale in the farm store



Guided farm tour – Explore the 175 acre farm with one of our experienced staff, each individual will receive a bag of animal feed to feed the animals at the feeding points around the farm. There will be the opportunity for questions and explanations about the farm and how it operates.



Hands on horticulture – There will be a seasonal horticulture activity which could be sowing seeds, planting out, harvesting fruit or vegetables, maintaining vegetable beds.

Lamb feeding – April and May only, individuals in groups of 10 will have the opportunity to feed our newborn lambs, these will be lambs that are unable to be cared for by their mother, we cannot guarantee that each person will get to feed their own lamb.

The group will have the opportunity to spend time in the pen with the lambs and ask any questions.

PLEASE NOT IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR TRYING FOR A BABY WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THIS ACTIVITY AND ADVISE THAT YOU DO NOT PARTICIPATE



Tractor & Trailer ride – Have a tour of the farm on our trailer, a guide will be available to explain about the farming methods we use, the different animals and answer any questions. PLEASE NOTE, UNFORTUNATLY AT THIS PRESENT TIME THERE IS NOT WHEELCHAIR ACCESS TO OUR TRAILER

Den building – Go wild in our ancient woodland area and forage for materials to build a den, the group will be split into teams to build a shelter using found materials guides will advise on the methods for creating shelters and respecting the wildlife in the woodland when foraging



Wildlife workshop – The wildlife is important to the sustainability of our farm, for this activity teams will build wildlife habitat, bug hotels and bird and butterfly feeders to encourage the wildlife to thrive on the farm

Wool workshop – The group will be shown examples of wool from the farm, what its used for and how we get it, they will then have the opportunity to make something using traditional weaving techniques



Curriculum days

Linked to geography, design and technology, biology or Environmental science curriculum that fits within a scheme of Work.

Activity Days
£9.95 per person

Activities (choose up to 3, max group sizes are based on activity, large groups can rotate around activities)

Free range hen experience		1.5 hours
Guided farm tour		1.5 hours
Hands on horticulture		45mins - 1 hour
Lambing	April only	30 mins
Field to fork		1 hour

Explanation of learning opportunities

Free range hen experience – Collect fresh eggs, feed hens, learn about the food hens require and feeding regime, shelter requirements, help to muck out hen houses. Understand the cycle of the hen eggs and how the eggs are processed.

Lifecycle of a chicken KS1	Science Animals Living things and their habitats	“Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)” “Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults” “Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)”
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Guided farm tour – Explore the 175 acre farm with one of our experienced staff, each individual will receive a bag of animal feed to feed the animals at the feeding points around the farm. There will be the opportunity for questions and explanations about the farm and how it operates.

Introduction to farm animals KS1	Science	Animals Living things and their habitats	<p>“Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals” “Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores” “Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults” “Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)” “Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.” “Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.” “Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.”</p>
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Hands on horticulture – There will be a seasonal horticulture activity which could be sowing seeds, planting out, harvesting fruit or vegetables, maintaining vegetable beds. There will be an opportunity to visit our orchard to learn about pollination and varieties of fruit.

Plants food, growing & gardening KS1	Science	Plants	<p>“Identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees” “Identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees. observe and describe how seeds and bulbs grow into mature plants.” “Find out and describe how plants need water, light and a suitable temperature to grow and stay healthy.”</p>
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Plants food, growing & gardening KS2	Science	Plants	<p>“Identify and describe the functions of different parts of flowering plants: roots, stem/trunk, leaves and flowers”. “Explore the requirements of plants for life and growth (air, light, water, nutrients from soil, and room to grow) and how they vary from plant to plant.” “Explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal. “</p> <p>“Describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.”</p>
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Lambing – April only, individuals in groups of 10 will have the opportunity to visit our lambing pens and get an understanding of the requirements of the pregnant ewes, they will be shown the process of preparing a ewe for lambing and what happens to the ewe during lambing. The group may get to see lambs being born or ewes in the early stages of lambing. The group will have the opportunity to spend time in the pen with the lambs and ask any questions. PLEASE NOT IF YOU ARE PREGNANT OR TRYING FOR A BABY WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND THIS ACTIVITY AND ADVISE THAT YOU DO NOT PARTICIPATE

Introduction to farm animals KS1	Science	Animals	<p>“Identify and name a variety of common animals including fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals” “Identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores” “Notice that animals, including humans, have offspring which grow into adults”</p> <p>“Find out about and describe the basic needs of animals, including humans, for survival (water, food and air)” “Identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.” “Identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats, including microhabitats.” “Describe how animals obtain their food from plants and other animals, using the idea of a simple food chain, and identify and name different sources of food.”</p>
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Field to fork – During a tour of the farm the group will identify and feed a range of farm animals discussing how they are reared and their purpose within the farm. Look at how animals are reared free range on the farm and discuss commercial methods of farming. Look at the production of fruit and vegetables on the farm and the difference between organic production and the use of pesticides on food production.

Field to fork: food systems KS1	D&T	Cooking & Nutrition	'Understand where food comes from'
Field to fork: food systems KS2	D&T	Cooking & Nutrition	"Understand seasonality, and know where and how a variety of ingredients are grown, reared, caught and processed."



Volunteering experience

Volunteering Experience
£5.95 per person

Minimum 15 maximum 30 we have structured activities that teach practical skills but also help to benefit the farm and community; for example, setting up fences and maintaining orchards. This activity is aimed at young adults and could be part of a community involvement or good citizenship programme, young adults must be over the age of 14 activities will depend on the time of year, they will be group activities and might include weeding, or clearing vegetable beds, maintaining our orchards,

Activities (choose up to 3, max group sizes are based on activity, large groups can rotate around activities)

Hands on horticulture	Weeding or clearing beds, harvesting potatoes
Happy hen experience	Mucking out laying hens, cleaning troughs and spreading straw
Maintaining our orchards	Feeding trees, weeding, collecting windfall apples, repairing tree guards
Fencing and pen building	Repairing and maintaining fences and pens around the farm
Painting and weatherproofing	Painting and weatherproofing barns, fences and gates



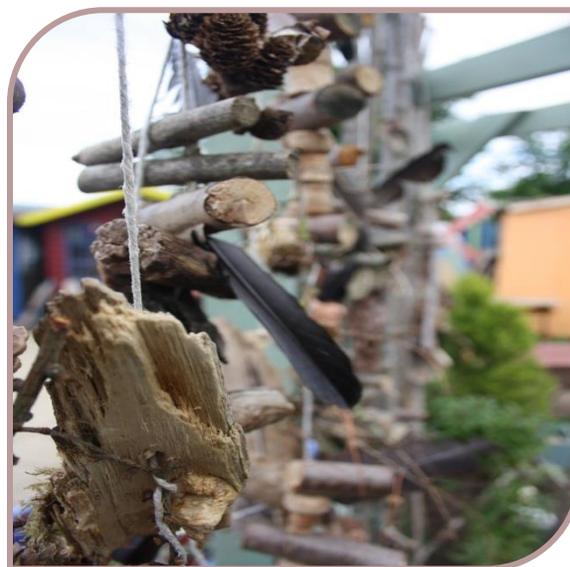
Outreach Visits

With our outreach to schools projects we visit you and your children at school and work with small groups of pupils and staff to create unique experiences. We can create a bespoke visit based on your children, the environment and their needs. Below are some of the activities available.

**Outreach visits
£156.02 per visit**

Activities

Hands on horticulture	Planting seeds or plugs, preparing soil and watering seeds
Happy hen experience	Our friendly bantams 'Bob, Betty and Belinda', will pop in for a visit
Small animal handling	Meet some of our rabbits from the farm, with the opportunity to pet and handle he rabbits and learn about their needs
Wildlife workshop	Make feeders and wildlife enrichment tools using natural materials
Wool workshop	A sensory activity which allows individuals to get hands on with wool, feeling the different types and having a go at traditional peg loom weaving
Being a farmer interactive talk	We can provide an interactive talk about being a farmer, what a farmer does, some of the different animals we work with, some of the vegetables that we grow and where our food comes from



Staying safe during your visit

Responsibilities of the Farm

- Provide Health and Safety information to the Schools before the visit
- Create a safe, welcoming and informative environment
- Ensure someone is available to deliver the tour or workshop
- Meet the proposed learning outcomes

Responsibilities of the School

- Ensure that the children are well behaved during the visit
- Provide enough Staff to supervise the children
- Ensure that all children wash their hands and arms thoroughly with water and soap
- Arrive at the arranged time

It is important that all children and supervising adults are aware of the correct health and safety guidelines. The risk of infection is very small, but the disease caused by an infection could be serious. By following the simple guidelines, which are similar to everyday basic hygiene recommendations, the risk can be easily minimised. The Health & Safety Executive has produced guidelines about avoiding ill health at open farms (see Appendix 1). This advises teachers and others who organise visits for children to farms on controlling the risk of infections from the animals the children may contact during their visit. Please take the time to read the risk assessment that will be provided before your visit (see Appendix 2) before visiting. A member of staff will also give a brief introduction to Health and Safety when the group arrives.

During and after the visit, please make sure that individuals

- Do not kiss any animals
- Do not put fingers in or near their mouths
- Do not climb on the animal fencing
- Do not chase, frighten or torment the animals
- Always wash their hands and arms with hotwater and soap before leaving the farm and eating or drinking
- Clean or change their footwear before leaving
- Listen carefully and follow the instructions given by farm staff

If a member of your group shows signs of illness (e.g. sickness or diarrhoea) after a visit, advise them or their parent/guardian to visit the doctor and explain that they have had visited the farm.

Hand gels no substitute for handwashing on farm visits

Hand gels have their use in areas which are generally clean, for example offices or hospitals, but are not effective in killing bugs such as E. coli or cryptosporidium which can be found in animal droppings and on contaminated surfaces around farms.

Schools and visitors with additional needs

At Church Farm we want to ensure that visitors with special educational needs get just as much out of the experience as anyone else.

The outdoor farm environment is a very stimulating way to interact with nature and enjoy the trust and companionship of animals - and we've made a number of enhancements and adjustments that will help all visitors share equally in this experience.

The following information outlines the facilities we've put in place to help our visitors with special educational needs. We've also covered what we expect and need from you.

In many cases special educational needs are very individual so, if you don't find the answers to your particular questions, please contact us.

Our team and facilities

SEN qualified and experienced staff

Our staff are all experienced in organising activities and learning experiences for individuals with in special educational needs and mental health. Not only can we lead each visit with special educational needs in mind, our experience enables us to advise on planning the visit in advance and anticipating and allowing for how needs may often change on the day.

Fully accessible WC

We have a fully accessible WC onsite

Wheelchair accessibility

We are a 175 acre working farm where accessibility around the farm can become challenging especially during the winter months. If you have anyone with mobility issues or someone that uses a wheelchair or mobility aid please let us know in advance as we do have some areas of the farm that are adapted to suit such visitors. We can tailor your visit to the mobility of the individuals in your group.



Church Farm Recommended Kit List

Please note, regardless of what time of year you visit Church Farm, the following 3 items are recommended, and we would not expect students to come without:

- A good waterproof jacket – large enough to fit over several layers of clothing
- Waterproof over trousers
- Wellington boots

We would also recommend depending on the time of year

- Plenty of layers of warm, comfortable old clothing (jeans are not good for outdoor activities as they do not dry quickly), non-cotton tracksuit type clothing is best. Clothing that can be worn in many layers is much more flexible, and allows adjustment to the weather and conditions.
- Thick socks (including a long thick pair to wear with Wellingtons)
- Outdoor shoes such as trainers or walking boots (designated to only be worn out on the farm)
- A change of shoes to go home in
- Warm coat (If waterproof jacket is a thin material)
- Sun cream and sun hat
- Spare plastic bags to take home dirty laundry, muddy waterproofs and muddy wellies
- If you have been told by teachers / staff that your group will be visiting the farm shop bring some pocket money (usually £3 to £5 is ample). We sell snacks, sweets and farm badges

Please ensure all your personal items are clearly labeled



Booking a visit

If you would like to book a visit or enquire about a potential visit please get in touch using the contact details below. Please bear in mind we can tailor packages to suit your groups and needs. We will endeavor to get back to you promptly.

Contact us

Church Farm
Ardeley
Hertfordshire
SG2 7AH

01438 861447

Email: info@churchfarmardeley.co.uk

www.churchfarmardeley.co.uk



Please let us know the following information:

1. Group size
2. Age group
3. Proposed date(s)
4. The type of package you are interested in
5. Any additional needs
6. Times you would be looking to attend
7. Name and contact details of main contact
8. Any questions you have

We look forward to seeing you soon 😊