Whirlow Hall Farm Trust

A classroom in the countryside

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

For ages 3–18+
We welcome schools and groups on pre-booked day and residential visits. Our programme offers curriculum links to science, literacy, maths, geography, history, art and design and PSHE, for all age groups from pre-school to A level.

In addition, we offer alternative provision for primary, secondary and post-16 children and young people.

How to make a booking
Choose from our fabulous range of farm tours for a half-day visit. Match your tour with one of our fun and active sessions to make your visit a full day. Our sessions are designed by teachers to engage all children in quality learning. If there is something you are looking for which is not in our brochure, please get in touch. Our education team are always happy to design an experience tailored to your needs.

Contact 0114 2360096 or education@whirlowhallfarm.org

EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Learning Outside the Classroom is an essential element of a broad and balanced curriculum.

KEY STAGES | EY/FS | KS1 | KS2 | KS3 | KS4 | KS5 | SEN
---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---
COLOUR CODE | | | | | | |

Most children need to experience to learn and Whirlow certainly provides top quality life experiences.

Walkley Primary School
Farm tour – half-day session
Our half-day tour helps pupils learn about where their food comes from and how farm animals are reared. We have sheep, pigs, cows, goats, ponies, hens, ducks, geese, quail, rabbits and guinea-pigs. From stroking spring lambs to picking autumn raspberries, pupils gain hands-on experience to help them understand about lifecycles, the relationship between farming, food and animal welfare, all led by our experienced education team.

Please select from the following tours:

- Where Food Comes From
- Lifecycles
- Sensory
- Animal Welfare
- Plants and Growing
- Maths on the Farm
- Selective Breeding and Domestication of Animals

For more information about our farm tours please ring and speak to a member of the team on 0114 2360096.

The staff member was brilliant with the children and made each section of the tour fun with information delivered at just the right level for our children.

Brightside Nursery and Infant School
We are committed to help promote healthy eating and the well-being of all children and young people.

Hands-on Farming
Get active on the farm by helping with real farm jobs, for example picking raspberries in the field, feeding the animals, pasture management and other seasonal activities.

Healthy Eating
Seasonal, practical sessions linked to our fruit and vegetable production. Build skills around the harvesting, preparation of food and healthy eating. Popular sessions include:

- Make bread or pizzas and collect tomato and herb toppings straight from the farm to cook in our outdoor clay oven
- Harvest summer fruits and make smoothies, fruit kebabs or a harvest crumble
- Cook and taste Whirlow sausages
- Make a seasonal soup using Whirlow vegetables
- Prepare and cook lamb koftas using Whirlow lamb
- Learn about how compost is made and used on the farm
- Feed the hens, collect the eggs and make pancakes.
- Learn all about the importance of bees for food production. Find out how a hive operates and sample the produce.

⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐ The adult support was excellent and pitched exactly right. The children used the word ‘amazing’ throughout. They were thrilled to be trusted to create their own soup. It brought our discussions on food to life.⭐⭐⭐⭐⭐

St Mary’s Catholic School
**LITERACY**

Bring reading to life with our imaginative and fun story book sessions. Choose from a range of countryside tales and re-enact stories through read-along, role-play, puppets and creative hands-on activities. Choose from the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Storybook Title</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Eggs and Ham</td>
<td>⭐⭐⭐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Red Hen</td>
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<td>Where the Wild Things Are</td>
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<td>Gruffalo</td>
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<td>We’re Going on a Bear Hunt</td>
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<td>Stickman</td>
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<td>Charlotte’s Web</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fantastic Mr Fox</td>
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</table>

Other storybooks available on request

**MATHS**

Enrich your maths curriculum with our practical outdoor mathematical opportunities!

**Maths on the Farm**

An active session providing purposeful opportunities for children to apply and practise their mathematical knowledge and understanding on a working farm. Children will problem solve their way around a range of fun farmyard activities including collecting eggs and sharing them out, milking the ‘sheep’ and measuring capacity. Links with our maths farm tour for a full maths day.

**Key Stage 2 Maths Day coming soon**
Our sessions enable pupils to work scientifically and to look more closely at the world around them.

Roots and Shoots
Investigate the journey from seed to plant, their basic needs and reproduction (Apr-Oct).

Habitats
Explore the habitats of birds, bees and badgers that live around our farm, find out what they eat and how they fit into the food chain.

Discovering Minibeasts
Investigate a range of habitats, collect and identify minibeasts using keys, view them on our video-microscope (Apr-Oct).

Pond Lifecycles
Explore pond ecosystems, learn to use keys, identify and classify pond creatures, identify food chains (Apr-Oct).

Clever Clods
Investigate different soils, make predictions, carry out fair tests and compare soils from different locations.

What Goes in Must Come Out!
An innovative session designed to enhance the Y3/4 science curriculum on animals. Find out how food and water travel through the body of a cow and a chicken through fun, messy activities, identify and compare key parts of their digestive systems, and discover what we do with what emerges at the other end! Link with an animal nutrition farm tour for a full day experience.

Woodland Study
Focus on the interaction of plants, animals and environmental conditions. Field studies can include techniques such as quadrat sampling and identification.

A-Level Biology: Energy Transfer, Nutrient Cycles and Biodiversity
Visit the farm and see how selective breeding and changes in farming techniques have reduced biodiversity yet increased the efficiency of energy transfer. See a nitrogen cycle in action as we tour the farm via growing pasture, grazing animals and manure heaps.
LIVING HISTORY

Meet our costumed historical characters from Whirlow’s past and engage in practical role play to meet your curriculum needs and period of study.

Early Farming
From spinning with drop spindles to planting with wiggle sticks, this fun and interactive session offers children the opportunity to experience how early farmers lived on the land. Full day with our history of farming farm tour.

Romans at Whirlow
We have made an exciting discovery at Whirlow – the remains of a Romano-British settlement! Time travel to this period and discover what life was like on a frontier farm. Become a Roman farmer in our newly built round house and perform a range of jobs in the home and field, including fence making, ploughing with an ‘ard’, grinding spelt, making mosaics and making a bracelet with ‘Roman beads’ to take home. Link with a ‘Romans at Whirlow’ tour to explore our archaeological remains, discover the story of why the Romans came to Whirlow and how they used the farm.

Victorian Life on the Farm
Experience farm life for the Victorian child. Milk the sheep, churn and pat the butter, wash the clothes in the dolly tub, collect eggs and groom a pony. Play with toys of the time and compare and contrast to life today.

Victorian Christmas
Help prepare the Victorian farm for Christmas – decorate the Christmas tree, make the Christmas pudding, discover the origins of the Christmas cracker and other seasonal family traditions.

World War II on the Farm
Experience life as an evacuee during World War II in this whole day session – learn about rationing, prepare for the Blitz, sound the air raid siren and extinguish an ‘incendiary bomb’.

Tour the farm with our ‘Land Girl’ and help with war-time farm jobs.

Christmas at War
Get the wartime farm ready for Christmas and find out about what life was really like in the war for those at home on the farm. Tour the farm with our ‘Land Girl’ to see how a war-time Christmas dinner is grown on this full day visit.

The Early Farming session was very practical and moved at just the right pace, the resources were good quality and realistic to reflect the nature of early farming.

Aston Fence
Use this guide to help you identify the curriculum links for your chosen session.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Areas of the Curriculum</th>
<th>Farm Tour</th>
<th>Where Food Comes From Farm Tour</th>
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<th>Sensory Farm Tour</th>
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<th>Plants and Growing Farm Tour</th>
<th>Maths on the Farm Tour</th>
<th>Selective Breeding and Domestication of Animals Farm Tour</th>
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<th>Little Red Hen</th>
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<td>Whirlow Through the Farmer’s Eyes</td>
<td>Star Orienteering</td>
<td>Food Production at Whirlow</td>
<td>Business Enterprise</td>
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Inspire young people’s curiosity and fascination about the world.

**Whirlow Through the Farmer’s Eyes**
- Explore diversification and land use around the farm in order to understand the challenges of modern farming. Follow the map around the farm identifying land use and topographical features. In our high-welfare pig unit explore inputs, outputs, processes and feedback loops.

**Star Orienteering**
- Navigate the wider farm on our orienteering trails. Students work in small teams developing map-reading skills to collect letters on their journey around the farm. Develops teamwork, communication and independence skills.

**Food Production at Whirlow**
- Compare intensive large-scale farming with organic farming and free-range farming, looking at both plants and animals. Investigate the conditions of caged and free-range hens and explore our growing areas.

**Business Enterprise**
- Calling all budding entrepreneurs! Come and participate in hands-on agriculture and see what is involved in large-scale fruit and veg production. Develop a business idea for selling our soft fruits, eggs, vegetables or sausages. Suitable for Y6/7 transitions, GCSE Business Studies or new-to-sixth-form team-building exercise.

👀 Students from urban areas generally have a real disconnect from the countryside… without Whirlow there would be a big gap in their knowledge and appreciation. 👀

Notre Dame School
**Woodland Adventure**

Take a journey of make-believe and imagination! Collect beautiful colours from nature and find treasures on the journey to our enchanted woods. In the woodland hear fairy stories, build fairy homes from natural objects and make wishes with fairy dust.

**Farm Art**

Explore and create sculpture looking at colour and form. Collect natural materials from around the farm and be inspired by the works of Andy Goldsworthy to create an outdoor sculpture.

**Colours on the Farm**

Collect colours in nature and explore their shades and tones. Create pictures and patterns using natural colours and dyes and display them in our outdoor gallery! Older groups will improve their mastery of art and design techniques by learning how to make natural dyes over a camp fire and explore how we can change colours by adding new substances.

**Den Building and Forest Schools**

Develop confidence and group cohesion in this challenging and exciting woodland session. Activities include den building, bushcraft, fire making and cooking outdoors.

**Earth Walk**

A sensory exploration of the countryside around the farm using a range of hands-on activities including ‘nature’s palettes’, ‘eye in the sky’, ‘meet a tree’ and ‘smelly cocktails’.

**From Sheep to Wool**

Meet our sheep and explore the properties of wool from fleece to felt. Make and take a crafted item home with you.

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"The Den building and Bush craft activities were the part I enjoyed the most. The children loved the link with the story ‘Where the Wild Things Are’ and they haven’t stopped talking about how much they loved roasting marshmallows by the fire. Truly a once in a lifetime experience for some of my children." — Stradbroke Primary
RESIDENTIAL VISITS

A life-changing experience for pupils of all ages! Our two-night stay and package of exciting farm activities gives pupils the space to develop confidence, build new relationships and spend quality time outdoors. Available all year, each building sleeps 12 children and 2 staff and is fully equipped for self-catering.

The Hall
Located in the heart of the farm, this traditional stone building has a kitchen, dining room and sitting room. Upstairs, two dormitories sleep 6 on bunk beds with separate staff bedrooms close by. The attractive walled garden provides a place to play and relax.

The Westfield Barn
Set amongst farm fields, the barn offers a real countryside experience. Popular with special needs groups, the building is fully accessible with lift, hoist and modern disabled-access toilet and shower facilities. Enjoy stunning views of the farm and the surrounding countryside.

““Our first ever residential, and it was fantastic! Brilliant children, great activities and lots of excitement! Thanks Whirlow Hall Farm!!””

Oasis Fir Vale

““This is a dream come true.””

Child on residential from Brightside Nursery and Infant School
Your stay will include the following led activities:

**Farm jobs**: Experience farm life by feeding the goats, rabbits and guinea-pigs, grooming a pony and collecting freshly laid eggs.

**Farm tour**: Meet our animals and discover the wider farm setting.

**Pony riding**: Ride one of our gentle ponies in our all-weather arena with our trained instructor.

To add more to your timetable, choose from our full range of sessions, for a small additional charge.

**Whirlow Hamper**

A stay at Whirlow is all about discovering the food we eat and where it comes from. What better way to get this message across to children than by helping to harvest, prepare and eat our fantastic, fresh farm produce. Please enquire for more details.

**Self-led opportunities**

- Explore our farm trails with our trail pack
- Borrow our equipment and go pond dipping
- Explore the Peak district, Forge Dam and Mayfield Valley
- Visit our farm shop and use fresh produce to prepare your meals (open Wed – Sun)

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"The Whirlow residential is the best visit I have ever taken a group of children on. It was my first time at Whirlow and I enjoyed every minute of it. To see how much the children benefited from these experiences blew me away."

Mansel Primary
We provide a nurturing space for children and young people who are experiencing difficulties in mainstream education. Our programmes are designed to be accessed a minimum of one day a week during term time.

Primary Alternative Provision
Our mission is to enable pupils with social, emotional and mental health needs to develop confidence, self-esteem and resilience. Our programme is practical, engaging and immersive and is based on the children’s interests with relevant links to the curriculum. By providing positive experiences, children develop personal and social capabilities that enable them to:

- recognise and regulate emotions
- develop empathy for others and understanding of relationships
- establish and build positive relationships
- make responsible decisions
- work effectively in teams
- handle challenging situations constructively
- develop leadership skills

Secondary Alternative Provision
We offer hands-on vocational experiences that focus on developing employability, life skills and confidence for children with additional learning needs who may be struggling to access the mainstream curriculum.

Post 16 SEND
We provide placements for young adults with additional learning needs five days a week, fifty weeks of the year.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
Bespoke courses are available for students within mainstream settings who have special educational needs and disabilities.

Numeracy and literacy skills are taught through farm-based activities designed to develop life skills. With a strong emphasis on art and creativity, our programme gives students the opportunity to learn at their own pace in a nurturing environment.

Further Education
We host Sheffield and Wakefield College students studying animal care programmes.

For more information, please check out our new website or ring our education team on (0114) 2360096.
Charges
Please see our website for all our charges. We may be able to offer financial assistance to schools who meet specific criteria.

Familiarisation
Book a pre-visit session to orientate yourself with the farm and discuss the details of your visit. Alternatively, visit the farm at the weekend and join a tour of the farm led by one of our friendly volunteers.

How to find us
Whirlow Hall Farm Trust
Whirlow Lane
Sheffield
S11 9QF

We have a minibus for hire. Please enquire about availability when booking.

Contact us
Whirlow Hall Farm Trust Education Office
Tel: 0114 236 0096
Email: education@whirlowhallfarm.org
www.whirlowhallfarm.org
Whirlow Hall Farm Trust
Registered Charity No. 508910

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