

Farm School Leader Information Pack

– October 2024

Information about Farms for City Children

About us:

Founded by Lady Clare and Sir Michael Morpurgo in 1976, Farms for City Children is a charity enabling children from under-served communities to experience the adventure of working together on our farms in the heart of the British countryside.

We exist to remove the barriers that prevent children and young people from urban areas having meaningful access to the natural world. Through a week on one of our three farms, Nethercott House in Devon, Lower Treginnis in Pembrokeshire, and Wick Court in Gloucestershire, children and young people experience increased learning and engagement, improved connections and wellbeing, and leave us with an enhanced sense of environmental citizenship.

Whether they stay for a whole week with their school or come with a local group for a day visit, this unique experience can be life changing. Visiting children are immersed in the natural world of food, farming, and countryside life where they participate in the seasonal tasks of the day: sowing, growing and harvesting in our kitchen gardens, caring for livestock and looking after the land, and a variety of tasks designed to build greater connection with the natural world like beekeeping, biodiversity walks, and birdwatching.

At our heritage farms, and in partnership with our commercial farming neighbours, children experience the benefits of collaboration, enjoy plenty of physical activity, good food, and fresh air, and discover the magical rural environment that is full of new words, sounds and experiences to inspire their creativity. Spending time working alongside real farmers fosters children's independence and helps them to grow in confidence, develops their self-esteem, and encourages them to become more resilient.

Further details about the Charity are available on our website

www.farmsforcitychildren.org.

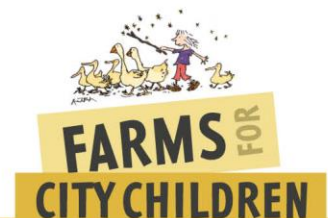


Working for us:

If you join our team, you will work alongside some hugely passionate and talented people who are focussed on providing children with a life-enhancing experience on one of our farms that they will always remember.

Our workforce is located across the UK and Wales, but the geographic spread does not impact the “one team” culture that sets us apart. We are a friendly and welcoming team who are incredibly proud of the work we do.

We see huge value in diversity and want to recruit the best people for our Charity to reflect the beneficiaries that we serve.



Job title:	Farm School Leader
Reporting to:	Farm Operations Manager
Key Relationships:	Farm School Manager, Farm Operations Manager, and wider Farm Team
Overall Purpose of Role:	<p>This is a hands-on role responsible for leading engaging countryside, food and farming sessions for groups of beneficiary children at Lower Treginnis Farm, a smallholding raising pigs, poultry, goats and growing field scale vegetables.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Salary:	£23,967.33 pro rata (actual salary £17,119.52)
Contract Type:	Permanent
Hours of Work:	Part time – 25 hours per week
Location:	This job will be based on the farm in Lower Treginnis, Wales. It may require occasional travel within the Charity's regions to attend training or meetings.
Other Benefits:	<p>25 days annual leave plus 8 bank holidays</p> <p>Employee assistance scheme</p> <p>Pension scheme – 6% employer contribution, minimum 2% employee contribution</p>
Pre-Employment Checks	This post is subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) check, and 2 satisfactory references from previous employers.



How to Apply:

Thank you for your interest in working with us.

Please complete the attached application form and equal opportunities form. These will be the basis for the shortlisting. CV's will not be accepted.

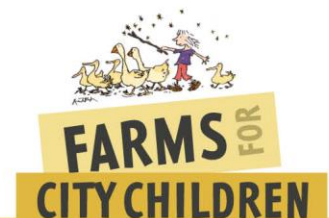
We are working hard to ensure we recruit great people and minimise unconscious bias in our selection process. As such your application will be anonymised before it is submitted to the selection committee.

Information about the Recruitment Process:

Closing date: Thursday 24 October 2024

Interview panel: Gethin Jones – Farm School Manager
Sally Partridge – Farm Operations Manager

Timeline: Interview week commencing Monday 28 October. Date TBC.





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 Lower Treginnis Farm, a smallholding raising pigs, poultry, goats and growing field scale vegetables.

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 basic 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 bio-security 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 pedagogical 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 Lower Treginnis.
- 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
- Skills, experience and confidence of working with livestock; particularly pigs, sheep, goats, equines and/ or poultry
- Experience of complying with biosecurity requirements in a farming environment

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).
- Training in H&S in a farming or outdoor learning environment

Knowledge and Skills

Essential

- An understanding of biosecurity and animal welfare
- Experienced user of MS Word, MS Excel and MS Outlook
- Strong understanding of and proud advocate for diversity and inclusion
- 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
- Full driving licence

Desirable

- Knowledge of local flora and fauna and an enthusiasm for farm-based conservation.
- Experience in childhood mental health, SEN, and wellbeing.
- Demonstrable commitment to continuous professional development