FARMSPACE BARNSLEY CIC

Company Number: 16120858

Mission Statement 2026–2027

Growing Confidence. Nurturing Potential. Inspiring Futures.

Our Mission

At Farmspace Barnsley CIC, we believe every child deserves the opportunity to succeed, regardless of the challenges they have faced or the barriers they experience.
We are committed to providing exceptional, trauma-informed alternative education that enables children and young people to feel safe, valued, respected and capable of achieving their full potential.

Our specialist farm-based provision supports children and young people aged 9–16 years who may be experiencing Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs, Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), emotionally based school avoidance (EBSA), anxiety or other barriers to learning.
We understand that many of the young people who come to Farmspace have experienced difficulties that have affected their confidence, relationships and engagement with education. Our role is to meet them where they are, build trusting relationships and help them rediscover belief in themselves.

Through meaningful experiences with animals, horticulture, nature and the outdoors, we provide opportunities for every young person to develop confidence, resilience, independence and practical life skills within a calm, nurturing environment.
Our ethos is simple:
We go the extra mile because every child deserves someone who believes in them until they begin to believe in themselves.
Every achievement matters, every step forward is celebrated and every young person is recognised as an individual with unique strengths, talents and aspirations.

Our Vision

Our vision is to become a recognised centre of excellence for therapeutic, farm-based Alternative Provision, where children and young people are empowered to overcome challenges, develop lifelong skills and create positive futures.
We want every learner to leave Farmspace with:

- increased confidence
- improved emotional wellbeing
- stronger relationships
- practical skills for everyday life
- greater independence
- renewed motivation to learn

- hope for the future.

For many young people, Farmspace provides their first opportunity to experience agriculture, animal care and land-based industries. We aim to inspire curiosity, develop vocational interests and help pupils explore future education, training and employment opportunities that they may never have considered before.
Whether a young person chooses a career in agriculture, animal care, horticulture or follows a completely different pathway, we want every learner to leave believing they have something valuable to contribute to their community and the wider world.

Our Ethos

Relationships are at the heart of everything we do.
We believe children learn best when they feel safe, understood and genuinely cared for. Our staff work hard to build trusting, respectful relationships that allow young people to feel confident enough to take risks, try new experiences and celebrate success.
We are committed to:

- going the extra mile for every child
- seeing the potential in every young person
- recognising strengths before difficulties
- creating opportunities rather than barriers
- celebrating progress, however small
- helping children believe in themselves again.

Our therapeutic, trauma-informed and relational approach allows young people to develop emotional resilience while learning practical skills that prepare them for adult life.

What We Believe

At Farmspace we believe every child deserves:

- to feel safe, respected and valued
- to be listened to and understood
- to develop positive, trusting relationships
- to learn in an environment where success is achievable
- to build confidence through meaningful experiences
- to develop resilience and independence
- to discover their strengths and talents
- to have opportunities to explore future careers and aspirations
- to be supported to overcome barriers to learning
- to leave with hope, ambition and belief in their future.

We believe behaviour is a form of communication and that positive relationships, consistency and compassion help young people achieve lasting change.

Our Curriculum

Our personalised curriculum combines education with therapeutic and vocational experiences that encourage pupils to learn through doing.
Learning opportunities include:

- Animal Care
- Horticulture
- Outdoor Learning
- Personal Development
- Emotional Literacy
- Employability Skills
- Independent Living Skills
- Teamwork and Communication
- Practical Problem Solving
- Health and Wellbeing.

Where appropriate, pupils may work towards recognised qualifications including ASDAN programmes and other accredited awards that support progression into further education, training or employment.
For pupils attending longer-term placements, opportunities to complete accredited qualifications are explored as part of their individual learning journey.
Our curriculum is designed not only to improve educational engagement but also to help young people discover interests, talents and possible future careers within agriculture, land-based industries, animal care and other vocational sectors.

Preparing for Positive Futures

We believe education should prepare young people for life beyond school.
Farmspace encourages every learner to think positively about their future by helping them develop confidence, transferable skills and realistic aspirations.
Through practical learning, responsibility and real-life experiences, pupils begin to understand the wide range of careers available within agriculture, environmental conservation, animal care, horticulture, countryside management and many other industries.
Even where these do not become future careers, the confidence, resilience, teamwork and problem-solving skills developed at Farmspace provide strong foundations for lifelong learning and employment.

Working in Partnership

Positive outcomes are achieved when families, schools, Local Authorities and professionals work together.
We are committed to developing strong partnerships built on trust, honesty and open communication to ensure every young person receives consistent, person-centred support.
We value the knowledge and expertise of parents, carers and professionals and believe that working collaboratively enables children to achieve the very best outcomes.

Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing

The safety, welfare and wellbeing of every child is our highest priority.

Farmspace is committed to providing an inclusive environment where every individual is welcomed, respected and valued regardless of background, ability or circumstance. We celebrate diversity, promote equality and foster a culture of kindness, respect and belonging. Our practice is fully aligned with current statutory safeguarding guidance and reflects our commitment to creating an environment where children feel safe enough to learn, grow and flourish.

Our Commitment

As a not-for-profit Community Interest Company (CIC), every pound generated through placements, fundraising and community support is reinvested directly into improving opportunities for the children and young people we serve.

We remain committed to continually developing our facilities, investing in our staff, caring for our animals and enhancing the learning experiences available to every pupil.

Above all, we are committed to helping every young person leave Farmspace with greater confidence than when they arrived.

If we can help a child rediscover belief in themselves, develop meaningful relationships, find enjoyment in learning and begin to look towards the future with optimism, then we have succeeded in our mission.

We don't just provide Alternative Provision.

We provide opportunity. We build confidence. We nurture potential. We help young people believe that their future can be different.

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