



Rainbow Horses

Learning Centre CIC

PROCEDURES FOR LEARNERS LEAVING THE SITE WITHOUT PERMISSION

We have a minimum staff ratio of 1:1 and learners are constantly supervised. The main gate is kept locked when learners who are at risk of absconding are on site and the hedge is maintained to be as secure as possible. However Rainbow Horses is not a secure unit and in some circumstances learners might leave the site without permission.

If this happens the staff member working with the child will make a dynamic risk assessment of the situation and brief other members of staff. Decisions will be made based on the current emotional state of the learner, the likelihood of them returning to site on their own accord, weather conditions, time of day and any other relevant external factors.

Our learners often experience dysregulated emotions and need support to help them manage their behaviour when this happens. Sometimes this support is the presence of a calm adult, sometimes it is the space to walk on their own and calm themselves down. We have a number of fields where the learners can safely take themselves off for a walk within our boundaries and remain in sight.

Occasionally learners threaten to leave the site. We make use of the good relationships that we have with our learners to attempt to persuade them to stay on site. We remain calm using the PACE approach and if appropriate use humour to engage them. We also remind them that if they leave the site without permission they may face a consequence where appropriate.

All staff carry mobile phones and will use these to inform other members of staff of the situation and ask for help if necessary. The senior staff member on site will take responsibility for co-ordinating staff and Sue Coombes will be informed if she is not on site.

If a learner continues to leave the site the procedure followed will be

1. To stay with the learner
2. To call local police on 101 if learner is putting themselves or others in danger
3. To ring parent/carer immediately
4. To inform commissioning body as soon as possible and on the same day

For any incident a Significant Incident Report Form will be completed and sent to all concerned parties.

Updated September 2023