HEALTH & SAFETY POLICY

GOAT Learning

Policy owner	Abbie Wyatt - Owner and Lead Tutor
Contact	goatlearning@outlook.com
Effective from	September 2026
Review	At least annually, and sooner following an incident, change to the provision or relevant guidance

1. Policy statement

GOAT Learning is committed to providing a safe, welcoming and well-managed environment for every child, parent, visitor and adult using the provision. Health and safety is considered as part of the day to day planning and delivery of all tuition, SEND support, small group sessions, clubs, outdoor learning and supervised interaction with animals.

GOAT Learning will take reasonable and proportionate steps to identify hazards, reduce avoidable risks and respond appropriately to accidents, illness and emergencies. Health and safety arrangements will reflect the nature of the activity, the age and needs of the children attending and the environment in which learning takes place.

2. Purpose and scope

This policy sets out the overall approach to health and safety at GOAT Learning. It applies to the indoor learning environment, access and arrival areas, outdoor learning spaces, equipment used during sessions and activities involving the GOAT Learning goats. It should be read alongside the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy and the relevant Learning Environment risk assessments.

3. Responsibilities

Abbie Wyatt, as Owner and Lead Tutor, has overall responsibility for the implementation and review of this policy. This includes maintaining a safe learning environment, completing and reviewing risk assessments, identifying and responding to hazards, maintaining appropriate first aid arrangements and ensuring that activities are suitable for the children taking part.

Parents and carers also have an important role in supporting safe practice. They are expected to provide accurate and current information about their child's medical needs, allergies, disabilities or other factors that may affect safe participation, and to follow agreed arrival, collection and site safety arrangements.

Children will be supported to understand and follow age-appropriate safety expectations. These will be explained positively and clearly, with reasonable adjustments made for children with SEND, communication differences or additional needs.

4. Risk assessment and management

GOAT Learning uses risk assessment as a practical tool for managing health and safety. The purpose of a risk assessment is not to remove all challenge or prevent children from taking part in meaningful experiences, but to identify foreseeable hazards and put sensible controls in place.

A Learning Environment Risk Assessment will cover the indoor tuition space and associated access arrangements. A separate Goat & Outdoor Learning Risk Assessment will address outdoor activities and supervised interaction with the goats. Additional activity-specific assessments will be completed where an activity introduces a risk that is not adequately covered by the existing assessments.

Risk assessments will be reviewed regularly and following a significant incident, change to the environment, introduction of a new activity or equipment, or where new information indicates that existing controls may no longer be sufficient.

5. The learning environment

The GOAT Learning teaching space will be maintained so that it is appropriate for children and the activities being delivered. Walkways, entrances and exits will be kept reasonably clear, furniture and equipment will be positioned safely, and obvious hazards will be addressed as soon as they are identified.

Learning resources and equipment will be appropriate for the age and needs of the children using them. Items that require closer supervision will only be used when suitable arrangements are in place. Electrical equipment will be visually monitored for signs of damage and removed from use where there is a safety concern.

Children will be supervised appropriately throughout sessions. The level of supervision will take account of the activity, the individual child and any identified additional needs or risks.

6. Fire and emergency arrangements

GOAT Learning will maintain clear arrangements for responding to fire and other emergencies. Escape routes and exits will be kept accessible and children will be given simple, age-appropriate instructions about what to do in an emergency.

In the event that the learning space must be evacuated, the immediate priority will be to move children to a safe location, account for everyone present and contact the emergency services where required. Children will not re-enter the premises until it is safe to do so. Emergency contact information will be accessible so that parents or carers can be informed when necessary.

7. First aid, accidents and illness

Appropriate first aid supplies will be available during GOAT Learning sessions. Minor injuries will be dealt with appropriately and parents or carers will be informed where necessary. Accidents and incidents of significance will be recorded, including the circumstances, action taken and any follow up required.

Where an injury or illness requires urgent medical attention, emergency services will be contacted without delay and the parent or carer will be informed as soon as reasonably practicable. The child's immediate safety and access to appropriate medical care will take priority.

Children who are clearly too unwell to participate safely should not attend a session. If a child becomes unwell while attending, they will be supervised while arrangements are made for collection. Appropriate infection control and hygiene measures will be used where illness may be infectious.

8. Medical needs, allergies and medication

Parents and carers must provide GOAT Learning with relevant information about medical conditions, allergies and emergency arrangements before their child attends. Information must be updated if the child's needs change.

Where a child requires access to emergency medication or other medical support during a session, arrangements will be agreed with the parent or carer in advance wherever possible. Medication will only be supported where GOAT Learning has sufficient information to do so safely and the arrangements are appropriate to the provision.

Known allergies will be considered when planning activities, particularly where children will be outdoors, interacting with animals or using food or natural materials. No environment can be guaranteed to be completely allergen free; risks will therefore be managed through appropriate information, planning, supervision and hygiene.

9. Outdoor learning and interaction with goats

Outdoor learning and supervised interaction with the GOAT Learning goats form a distinctive part of the provision. These experiences will be planned so that children can benefit from them while foreseeable risks are managed appropriately.

Children will receive clear instructions about safe behaviour around the goats and will remain appropriately supervised. They will not enter animal areas or interact with the goats without permission. Particular attention will be given to gates and boundaries, animal behaviour, suitable footwear, uneven or wet ground, weather conditions and the individual needs of the child.

Good hand hygiene will be required following animal contact and before eating or drinking. Food and drink will not be consumed within animal contact areas. The separate Goat & Outdoor Learning Risk Assessment provides the detailed control measures for these activities.

10. Hygiene and infection control

GOAT Learning will maintain appropriate standards of cleanliness within the learning environment and encourage good hand hygiene. Particular care will be taken before eating, after using the toilet, after outdoor activities and following contact with animals.

Where there is a known or suspected infectious illness, GOAT Learning may ask that a child does not attend until it is appropriate for them to return. Cleaning or temporary changes to activities may be introduced where this is necessary to reduce the risk of infection.

11. SEND, accessibility and individual needs

Health and safety arrangements will be adapted where necessary to support children with SEND, disabilities, medical needs, sensory differences or communication needs. A child's additional needs will be considered when determining appropriate supervision, explaining safety expectations and planning access to activities.

GOAT Learning will seek to enable children to participate rather than exclude them unnecessarily. Where an activity requires additional controls or an individual arrangement, this will be discussed with the parent or carer and recorded where appropriate.

12. Reporting hazards and incidents

Any hazard identified within the GOAT Learning environment will be addressed as soon as reasonably practicable. Where a hazard cannot be made safe immediately, access to the affected area or equipment will be restricted until appropriate action has been taken.

Accidents, near misses and other significant incidents will be considered as part of ongoing risk management. Where an incident identifies a weakness in existing arrangements, the relevant risk assessment, procedure or control measure will be reviewed.

13. Review of this policy

This policy will be reviewed at least annually. It will also be reviewed sooner where there is a significant accident or incident, a material change to the premises or activities offered by GOAT Learning, or a change in relevant health and safety requirements or guidance.

Detailed control measures are contained within GOAT Learning's supporting risk assessments. These documents are working records and will be updated as the provision develops.

Approved by: Abbie Wyatt, Owner and Lead Tutor

Effective: September 2026 | Next formal review: September 2027