

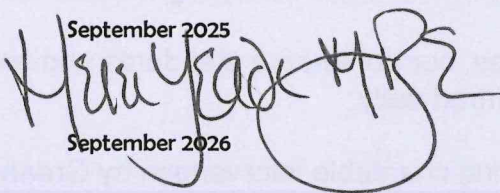
## Greatwood Equine Welfare Policy

DATE CREATED: November 2023

DATE REVIEWED: September 2025

SIGNATURE:

DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: September 2026



This policy was written for Greatwood by Helen Yeadon MBE  
It will be reviewed annually and updated in line with any new recommendations or legislation as it is made available.

This policy and plan apply to all staff, including senior managers and the Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers and seasonal workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of Greatwood.

### The purpose of this policy:

To follow Section 9 of The Animal Welfare Act which places a duty of care on people to ensure that reasonable steps in all of the circumstances to meet the welfare needs of animals to the extent required by good practice.

### The five freedoms are usually expressed as follows;

- Freedom from Hunger and Thirst.
- Freedom from Discomfort.
- Freedom from Pain, Injury or Disease.
- Freedom to Express Normal Behaviour.
- Freedom from Fear and Distress.

Our horses are essential to the work of Greatwood and must be handled with awareness and consideration at all times. The health and wellbeing of all our horses is vital to the delivery of a positive experience to our learners. In addition, as the leading provider of alternative education and a Wiltshire Council Accredited Centre for Alternative Provision, we recognise the importance of maintaining the highest equine-welfare standards in all that we do and embedding the values that underpin these standards in all that we teach. Greatwood abides by and teaches the Five Freedoms.

Greatwood is a member of the National Equine Welfare Council and complies with the Equine Industry Welfare Guidelines published by the National Equine Welfare Council. This policy statement further outlines our commitment to horse welfare. Policy Principles: The position of Head of Equine, Yard Grooms and Riding Grooms are filled by employees with significant horse-care experience in a professional setting.

The Head of Equine and all staff receive CPD appropriate to their roles and responsibilities in relation to horse welfare. Horses are not to be used for any Greatwood activity until they have been fully

assessed by the Head of Equine and always in conjunction with the Greatwood Vet. Horses should be sound, in appropriate body condition and should not display any signs of stress. Veterinary advice is sought where there is any doubt. There is no maximum age limit for Greatwood horses. However, general fitness, body condition, age and the presence of any medical or orthopaedic conditions is taken into consideration when allocating work to older horses.

Greatwood horses, our horse-care standards and routines, and stable yard are inspected daily. The findings are recorded daily.

Any horse requiring charitable intervention by Greatwood is required to have a clear strangles result before entering the charity, in line with the current veterinary guidance. Any new horse will be isolated and stabled in the isolation unit, following all cross-contamination guidelines.

In the event of any disease outbreak, the horse will be quarantined and the relevant authorities informed.

Any actions needed are discussed with the relevant people and the process is then started to address any situation that may have been identified. Greatwood horses receive high-quality routine care, including vaccination against Equine Influenza. All Greatwood horses are vaccinated in line with British Horseracing Authority guidelines.

- These require all horses to be vaccinated in line with the new primary course and booster vaccination interval schedules set out below:

	<b>Historic Intervals</b>	<b>Intervals from 1 January</b>
<b>V1</b>		
<b>V2</b>	21 - 92 days	21 - 60 days
<b>V3</b>	150 - 215 days	120 - 180 days
<b>Booster</b>	Not more than 1 year apart	Not more than 6 months apart

The farrier is in attendance weekly and any complicated remedial work is referred to our consultant farrier.

Greatwood horses must not be used for more than one riding, lunging sessions per day, and will not be used for more than two animal aided intervention sessions per day. The maximum weight for a rider including saddle is 12.5 stone and current guidance will be used. The horses will have at least one day per week when they are not used for ridden sessions. Greatwood horses will be turned out into the fields during the summer months. They will have both fly and rain protection as required. All horses will be brought in for the winter months.

When a horse becomes unsuitable to be rehomed an assessment is undertaken by a qualified assessor or the Head of Equine as to whether the horse will be suitable for the unriden educational programmes undertaken by Greatwood. The best interests of the horse are central to decisions taken over its future. All appropriate rehoming options are considered and in the event of euthanasia

being considered, we will follow the BHA guidelines and take into consideration the relevant part of the Horse Welfare Board Euthanasia Tree, also abiding by Greatwood Euthanasia Policy which has been specifically written for former racehorses.

Any concerns regarding the welfare standards at Greatwood generally, or the actions or behaviours of any individual at Greatwood– be that members of staff, trainees, course delegates or visitors – should be reported immediately to the Head of Administration, Head of Equine or MD.

