



STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

SAFEGUARDING AND SAFER RECRUITMENT

Last Review Date	September 2026
Policy Reviewer	Director – Kane Wilson
Version	V1.07/09/26
Changes since last review	Reviewed and updated in line with KCSIE 2026 and current safeguarding, safer recruitment and alternative provision requirements.
Next Review Date	August 2027

The Ark Smallholding Ltd provides outdoor alternative provision for children and young people referred or commissioned by schools and other education settings. Pupils attend our smallholding and participate in structured activities including animal care, outdoor learning and forest school activities.

This Statement of Assurance is provided to commissioning and placing schools to support their safeguarding and due-diligence arrangements when placing pupils with The Ark Smallholding Ltd.

SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

The Ark Smallholding Ltd is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people.

We maintain safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures appropriate to the nature of our provision and have regard to relevant statutory safeguarding guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026.

The Ark Smallholding Ltd has arrangements in place for:

- identifying, responding to and recording safeguarding concerns;
- ensuring concerns about a child are reported promptly to the appropriate Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and, where appropriate, to the placing school;
- responding to disclosures made by children and young people;
- managing allegations or safeguarding concerns relating to adults working within the provision;

- managing low-level concerns relating to staff conduct;
- escalating or referring safeguarding concerns to the appropriate statutory agencies where required;
- maintaining appropriate safeguarding records and sharing safeguarding information where necessary and lawful;
- appropriate supervision of children and young people while attending the provision; and
- ensuring staff understand the standards of behaviour and professional boundaries expected when working with children.

A Designated Safeguarding Lead and appropriate deputy arrangements are in place for the provision.

SAFER RECRUITMENT AND VETTING

The Ark Smallholding Ltd operates safer recruitment procedures for individuals working with children and young people.

Appropriate checks are undertaken according to the role and applicable legal requirements. These include, where relevant:

- verification of identity;
- Right to Work in the UK checks;
- employment history and exploration of relevant gaps or inconsistencies;
- appropriate references;
- verification of relevant qualifications and registrations;
- consideration of appropriate additional checks where an individual has lived or worked outside the UK; and
- Disclosure and Barring Service checks at the appropriate level for the role.

Where an individual's role constitutes regulated activity with children, The Ark Smallholding Ltd obtains an Enhanced DBS check including a Children's Barred List check, where the organisation is legally entitled and required to do so.

The Ark Smallholding Ltd will not knowingly permit a person who is barred from regulated activity with children to undertake such activity.

STAFF SAFEGUARDING KNOWLEDGE AND CONDUCT

Staff working with pupils receive safeguarding information and training appropriate to their responsibilities.

Safeguarding knowledge and practice are reviewed and updated regularly, and staff are made aware of how to recognise and report safeguarding concerns.

Staff are required to comply with The Ark Smallholding Ltd's safeguarding procedures, code of conduct and expected professional boundaries.

Staff are also required to disclose relevant changes in circumstances which may affect their suitability to work with children, subject to applicable legislation.

SAFETY AND SUPERVISION AT THE SMALLHOLDING

The Ark Smallholding Ltd recognises that its outdoor environment and activities involving animals require appropriate management of both safeguarding and physical safety.

We maintain appropriate procedures and risk assessments relevant to the activities undertaken by pupils, including animal care, outdoor learning and forest school activities.

Pupils are appropriately supervised during activities, with staffing and supervision arrangements determined having regard to the activity, environment, individual pupil needs and identified risks.

Appropriate arrangements are maintained for first aid, accidents, incidents and emergencies.

Where a pupil has individual medical, behavioural, safeguarding or other identified needs relevant to their placement, appropriate information should be provided by the commissioning or placing school to enable suitable arrangements and risk management to be agreed before and during the placement.

VISITORS AND ACCESS TO PUPILS

The Ark Smallholding Ltd maintains appropriate arrangements for managing visitors and other adults who may be present at the provision while children and young people are attending.

Access to pupils is appropriately controlled and visitors are supervised where required, according to the nature of their visit and safeguarding considerations.

WORKING WITH COMMISSIONING AND PLACING SCHOOLS

The Ark Smallholding Ltd recognises that safeguarding pupils attending alternative provision requires effective communication between the provision and the commissioning or placing school.

We will cooperate with schools in relation to safeguarding and welfare matters and will promptly communicate relevant concerns, incidents or information in accordance with agreed procedures and statutory safeguarding requirements.

Schools are expected to provide The Ark Smallholding Ltd with sufficient relevant information concerning an individual pupil's safeguarding, medical, behavioural, SEND and risk-management needs to enable us to make appropriate arrangements for their placement.

The Ark Smallholding Ltd will provide reasonable safeguarding and safer-recruitment assurance information requested by a commissioning school, subject to applicable data protection requirements.

ASSURANCE

The Ark Smallholding Ltd confirms that the safeguarding and safer-recruitment arrangements described in this Statement are in place and are kept under review.

This Statement should be read alongside our relevant policies and procedures and does not replace the commissioning school's own statutory safeguarding responsibilities or due-diligence requirements in relation to alternative provision.

Signed on behalf of The Ark Smallholding Ltd:	
Name:	Kane Wilson
Role:	Director
Signature:	K. Wilson
Date:	7/9/26