

Eccleston Equestrian Centre

Health & Safety

Policy



<i>Last reviewed on:</i>	16.06.2026
<i>Next review due by:</i>	16.06.2027

Health & Safety Policy Statement

Staff, Clients, Volunteers and Helpers 2026

Eccleston Equestrian Centre is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for all staff, clients, volunteers, visitors and horses. While every reasonable precaution is taken to minimise risk, horses are large, powerful and unpredictable animals. Their natural behaviour may include biting, kicking, rearing or sudden movements, which can result in injury.

Everyone using the facilities has a duty to take reasonable care for their own health and safety and that of others. All persons must follow the Centre's safety procedures and comply with instructions given by members of staff at all times. The following safety rules must be observed. This list is not exhaustive, and all individuals are expected to exercise training and caution when handling or working around horses.

This is the health and safety policy statement of Eccleston Equestrian Centre.

Our health and safety policy is to:

- Prevent accidents and cases of work-related ill health
- Manage health and safety risks in our workplace
- Provide clear instructions and information, and adequate training, to ensure employees are competent to do
- Provide personal protective equipment
- Consult with our employees on matters affecting their health and safety
- Provide and maintain safe equipment
- Ensure safe handling and use of substances
- Maintain safe and healthy working conditions
- Implement emergency procedures, including evacuation in case of fire or other significant incident
- Review and revise this policy regularly

Overall and final responsibility for health and safety: Proprietor/Centre Manager

Day to day responsibility for health and safety: Proprietor/Senior Staff

Arrangements for health and safety

Risk assessment- We will complete relevant risk assessments and take action. We will review risk assessments when working practice, habits or conditions change. Risk assessments are available on request along with the full health and safety policy.

Training- We will give staff and sub-contractors health and safety inductions and provide appropriate training. We will provide personal protective equipment when required.

Health & Safety Rules

1. Riding Attire

- All riders must wear an approved riding helmet that complies with current BHS safety standards (PAS 015:2011 or later, VG1, ASTM F1163 or SNELL E2016, carrying the appropriate quality assurance mark).
- Suitable riding boots with a small heel and smooth sole must be worn. Trainers are not permitted.
- Gloves are strongly recommended when riding and handling horses.
- Jodhpurs, riding tights or suitable riding trousers must be worn.
- Jackets or outerwear must be securely fastened whilst riding.
- Shoulders and arms should be covered where practical.

2. Handling Horses

- Horses must be tied up safely when being groomed or attended to in the stable unless otherwise instructed by a member of staff.
- Ponies that normally live in the barn should be allocated a stable by a member of staff while on site.
- Always remain alert to a horse's body language. Warning signs such as pinned-back ears, swishing tails, raised hindquarters or turning their quarters towards you may indicate discomfort or agitation.
- Never approach, handle or feed a horse without permission if you are unfamiliar with it.

3. Children

- No child may enter a stable or handle a horse unless accompanied by, or authorised by, a member of staff.
- Children must be supervised by a responsible adult unless participating in an organised activity under staff supervision.

4. Fields and Turnout Areas

- Helpers, volunteers and clients are not permitted to enter fields or paddocks unless accompanied or authorised by a member of staff.

5. Personal Protective Equipment and Clothing

- Long hair must be tied back securely.

- Jewellery should not be worn while riding or handling horses, with the exception of a plain wedding band.
- False nails are not recommended, as they may increase the risk of injury. Anyone choosing to wear false nails must wear gloves when riding and working on the yard. Eccleston Equestrian Centre cannot accept responsibility for injuries or damage associated with wearing false nails.
- Hat and gloves should be worn when handling horses
- Protective dust masks are available from the office

6. Health Precautions

- It is recommended that all individuals who regularly work with horses keep their tetanus vaccinations up to date.
- Anyone suffering from illness or injury that may affect their ability to safely handle or ride horses should inform a member of staff before participating.

7. Fire Safety

- All staff, clients and helpers must familiarise themselves with the Centre's Fire Procedure and the Fire Action Notices displayed around the stable yard.
- In the event of a fire, follow staff instructions immediately and proceed to the designated assembly point.

General Safety

- Follow all instructions given by members of staff.
- Report any hazards, damaged equipment or accidents immediately.
- Do not run, shout or behave in a manner likely to startle horses.
- Smoking, vaping and the use of naked flames are prohibited in or around the stables, hay storage and other designated areas.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead and only brought onto the premises with permission.

Responsibility

Health and safety is everyone's responsibility. By attending or working at Eccleston Equestrian Centre, you agree to comply with the full EEC Health and Safety Policy and all reasonable instructions issued by staff.

If you are ever unsure about any procedure or feel that a situation may be unsafe, stop and ask a member of staff for assistance. Never put yourself, another person or a horse at unnecessary risk.

Further Information

This Health & Safety Policy Statement provides a summary of the key safety rules that apply to all staff, clients, volunteers and visitors at Eccleston Equestrian Centre.

A comprehensive Health & Safety Policy, together with supporting risk assessments and safe working procedures, is maintained by the Centre and is available upon request.

If you have any questions regarding health and safety or require clarification on any aspect of this policy, please speak to a member of management before handling or riding any horse