



Future Roots Taxi Policy 2025-2026

All young people attending Future Roots at Rylands Farm must be protected from harm or the likelihood of harm with regards to their Health and Safety and their general welfare and safeguarding

A farm can be a dangerous place and young people must always be supervised. We want to ensure that taxi firms and schools understand and accept this policy.

Future Roots expect that any Transport and/or Taxi use arrangement made by a school or by local authority contract will remain the responsibility of the organiser with regard to establishing contractual obligations and safeguarding matters. e.g. Schools own transport and staff are used or taxi's approved and commissioned following local authority guidance and regulations.

Taxi Responsibility

Taxi drivers must have appropriate training and understand safeguarding principles and the risk to themselves and young people. Taxi drivers must have a current DBS disclosure certificate.

Personal or negative comments should not be directed at the young people on the journey to and from the farm, as this impacts on the therapeutic value of the session. (We understand there will be times when young people need to be challenged).

Young people should be made aware if they can sit in the front of a taxi before the journey commences. (Ambiguity can cause disputes).

Drinks, food, cigarettes, vapes and gifts should not be purchased or provided to children by taxi drivers.

Booked journeys must be completed with no unscheduled stops or deviation from pick up and agreed drop of points. The only exception is where Future Roots and Taxi firm have clear instruction from the child's school or person with parental responsibility.

On Arrival

- No young person should be allowed on to the farm premises unless a Future Roots member of staff is present. (Staff are available no more than 10 mins prior to a session).
- If a taxi arrives early the young person should wait within the taxi until staff are available.
- If a taxi driver needs to leave their car they **MUST** sign in at the office.
- Young people should not arrive more than 10 minutes early as Future Roots cannot be responsible for students prior to this time.

On Leaving

- Future Roots Staff should ensure young people are being picked up by the correct Taxi as supplied for their specific Journey.
- Future Roots staff should accompany the student to the taxi and check the name of the



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student with the taxi driver, specifically if the young person has special needs or has 1:1 assigned staffing.

- Future Roots staff will try and ensure young people are ready to be collected no more than 5 minutes after the agreed pick-up times.
- Future Roots will encourage young people to remove excess hay and dirt from their clothing prior to pick up time. All students are encouraged to wear and will be offered wet weather clothing and appropriate PPE before their session.

Admin and Information

- The commissioning of Taxi companies who are picking up and collecting young people attending Future Roots remains the sole responsibility of the referral agencies. Problems with Taxi journeys will be in the first instance reported to the agency making the arrangements for the Young Person.
- It is expected that all Taxi companies will be licenced by the local authority and that all drivers will be subject to satisfactory statutory checks e.g. DBS.
- Agencies and Schools who make the referral to Future Roots remain responsible for the organisation of the transport arrangements to/from the Farm.
- If there is a change in taxi company or drop off times etc, then there must be clear communication to Future Roots by the Referrer/School regarding any changed of arrangements.
- If young people are collected more than 15 minutes later than the agreed pick-up time Future Roots may recharge the additional staff time back to the referring agency / School

Safeguarding

- If an incident occurs during a journey to / from Future Roots the Taxi company must inform Future Roots, the young person's school and their company at the earliest opportunity.
- There should be no unscheduled stops made during the journeys (except in an emergency).
- Taxi Drivers must not befriend young people, attempt to use social media with them message, or call them, nor purchase gifts, sweets, drinks etc. for a young person(s).
- Taxi drivers should not allow a child to use their (driver's) mobile phone nor use a child's mobile phone (except in an emergency).
- If a Taxi driver becomes aware of any safeguarding matters in relation to a young person or an impact on themselves, they must report this by following their company safeguarding policy and inform Future Roots.