



## Horserenity CIC

# Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

**Date of Issue:** 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2025

**Review Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2026

## 1. Introduction

Horserenity CIC is committed to providing an inclusive, accessible, and supportive equine-facilitated learning environment for all children and young adults, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Many learners attending the centre may already have diagnosed or emerging needs, Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs), or involvement with social care or therapeutic services.

This policy sets out how we identify, support, and respond to the needs of SEND learners in alignment with the **Equality Act 2010**, **Children and Families Act 2014**, and the **SEND Code of Practice (0–25 years)**.

## 2. Purpose of the Policy

The aims of this SEND policy are to:

- Ensure all learners have equal access to equine-facilitated learning activities.
- Promote an inclusive ethos where difference is understood, respected, and supported.
- Identify additional needs promptly and appropriately.
- Work collaboratively with families, carers, schools, and professionals.
- Deliver reasonable adjustments and personalised support strategies.
- Maintain safe practice when supporting learners with complex or additional vulnerabilities.

### 3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All children and young adults attending Horserenity CIC
- Staff, volunteers, and directors
- External referrers, carers, and partner agencies

It covers:

- Needs identification
- Adaptations to sessions
- Communication and behaviour support
- Physical accessibility
- Health and medical requirements
- Safeguarding considerations for SEND learners

### 4. Principles of Inclusion

Horserenity CIC is guided by the following principles:

- **Every learner is valued, respected, and supported.**
- **SEND is not a barrier** to participation.
- **Individual needs are understood** and responded to proactively.
- **Risk management** takes account of emotional, behavioural, and physical needs.
- **Children's voices** are central in decisions affecting them.
- **Parents, carers, and professionals are partners** in planning and support.
- **Adjustments are made wherever reasonable**, without compromising safety or animal welfare.

### 5. Definition of SEND

A learner is considered to have SEND if they have a:

- Physical disability
- Learning difficulty
- Long-term medical condition
- Sensory impairment
- Neurodevelopmental condition (e.g., ADHD, autism)
- Social, emotional, or mental health needs
- Communication difficulty

that affects their ability to engage in activities without additional support or adjustments.

## 6. Identifying SEND

Horserenity CIC identifies SEND through:

- Information from parents, carers, social workers, or referrers
- EHCPs or professional reports
- Registration and assessment forms
- Observations from staff
- Learner self-expression or feedback
- Changes in behaviour, communication, or wellbeing

The centre does **not diagnose**, but may identify emerging needs or recommend professional assessment where appropriate.

## 7. Admission and Assessment

During initial referral or registration, Horserenity CIC gathers relevant information on:

- Medical and physical needs
- Emotional and behavioural needs
- Triggers and calming strategies
- Sensory sensitivities
- Communication preferences
- Learning style or functional abilities
- Safeguarding or risk factors
- Required reasonable adjustments

A risk assessment will be completed for all learners and updated regularly.

## 8. Support for SEND Learners

Horserenity CIC provides a range of support, including:

### 8.1 Personalised Session Planning

- Individual goals
- Preferred learning styles
- Regulation breaks
- Adapted activities

### 8.2 Communication Support

- Visual prompts or schedules
- Makaton/gesture support (if staff trained)
- Clear, simple instructions
- Allowing processing time

### **8.3 Emotional and Behaviour Support**

- Trauma-informed practice
- Co-regulation strategies
- Predictable routines
- Quiet or low-stimulus areas
- Positive behaviour support approaches

### **8.4 Physical and Sensory Support**

- Adapted tack or equipment
- Sensory-aware environments
- Gradual introductions to horses
- Support for mobility or balance
- Adjustments for noise or environmental sensitivities

### **8.5 Reasonable Adjustments**

Adjustments may include:

- Flexible start/finish times
- Extra staffing
- One-to-one support
- Modified tasks
- Risk mitigation strategies
- Additional preparation or transition support

## **9. Staff Knowledge, Skills and Training**

Horserenity CIC ensures all staff and volunteers:

- Understand SEND and inclusive practice
- Are trained in trauma-informed and person-centred approaches
- Receive regular safeguarding and de-escalation training
- Understand the impact of neurodiversity, anxiety, and sensory needs
- Know how to adapt activities safely around horses
- Engage in ongoing professional development

Specialist training may be sought where learner needs require it.

## **10. Health, Medical, and Personal Care**

In relation to physical or medical needs, Horserenity CIC will:

- Gather relevant medical information prior to sessions
- Maintain up-to-date emergency and medication information
- Ensure staff know how to respond to medical conditions (e.g., asthma, epilepsy)

- Follow emergency protocols
- Perform specific risk assessments for mobility issues or physical disabilities
- Liaise appropriately with health professionals or carers

Staff do not administer medication unless explicitly agreed and risk assessed.

## 11. Partnership with Parents, Carers, and Professionals

Horserenity CIC recognises the importance of collaboration. The centre will:

- Work openly with parents, carers, schools, and social workers
- Share updates on progress, attendance, and concerns
- Seek additional information where support needs change
- Involve parents/carers in planning adjustments
- Support multi-agency approaches for complex needs

## 12. Safeguarding and SEND

Children and young adults with SEND may be at increased risk of:

- Bullying
- Abuse or exploitation
- Communication barriers
- Emotional regulation difficulties
- Misinterpreted behaviour

Horserenity CIC follows its Safeguarding Policy to ensure:

- All concerns are reported immediately to the DSL
- Accessible ways for learners to express concerns
- Thorough recording and monitoring
- Additional vigilance for signs of distress or behavioural change
- Adjusted approaches to disclosures for communication differences

## 13. Risk Assessment

Every SEND learner receives an **individual risk assessment** covering:

- Behavioural triggers
- Sensory sensitivities
- Horse suitability
- Environmental factors
- Mobility and balance
- Medical considerations
- Required staffing ratios

- Offsite or physical activity risk adjustments

Risk assessments will be reviewed:

- At least annually
- After incidents
- When needs change

## **14. Physical Accessibility**

Horserenity CIC is committed to making its environment as accessible as possible, including:

- Clear and safe pathways
- Quiet spaces for regulation
- Sensory-friendly areas
- Flexible seating and activity areas
- Reasonable environmental modifications

Where barriers cannot be fully removed (e.g., rural terrain), alternative activities or adjustments will be offered.

## **15. Behaviour Support and Positive Interventions**

Horserenity CIC promotes:

- Understanding behaviour as communication
- Positive reinforcement
- Trauma-informed and attachment-aware practice
- Low-arousal, respectful approaches
- Avoidance of punitive or shaming strategies

Where behaviours present a safety risk, staff will:

- Use de-escalation techniques
- Adjust or stop activities if required
- Inform parents/carers or professionals as appropriate
- Review support plans and risk assessments

## **16. Monitoring Progress**

Progress will be monitored through:

- Session notes
- Attendance and engagement data

- Communication with parents/carers
- Observations of emotional and behavioural development
- Learner feedback (verbal, visual, or written)

This information helps tailor future support and identify additional needs.

## 17. Complaints

Complaints or concerns about SEND provision should be raised through the **Horserenity CIC Complaints Procedure**. Issues relating to discrimination or accessibility may also be raised under the **Equality Act 2010** framework.

## 18. Data Protection and Confidentiality

All SEND-related information is treated as **special category data** and will be:

- Collected lawfully
- Stored securely
- Shared only with consent or on a safeguarding/legal basis
- Used to create safe and inclusive learning environments

Horserenity CIC adheres to its Data Protection Policy.

## 19. Policy Review

This policy will be reviewed:

- Annually
- If legislation or guidance changes
- Following significant incidents involving SEND learners
- When improvements in practice are identified