



Alternative education that's
holistic, bespoke & ambitious

Set on a farm † Rooted in nurture † Focused on futures



THERAPEUTIC | VOCATIONAL | PRACTICAL

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WWW.ORCHARDTF.CO.UK



Dear Parents, Guardians, Commissioners and Young People,

We're an alternative learning provider for children and young people at primary, secondary, and post-16 levels. But more than that, we're a place to breathe, grow, and begin again - at your own pace and in your own way.

Set on a working farm, surrounded by nature, Orchard Therapeutic offers something unique. Here, learning isn't confined to just a classroom. It happens in the creamery, in the orchard, with the animals, in the kitchen, on the reptile bus, in the engineering and construction hub, on the field, in the coffee shop. It happens through creating, making, producing, moving your body, transferring skills, discovering and trying new things. Who knows, the new things may become what you love the most!

Many of the young people who come to us have additional needs, including neurodivergent profiles, Attention Deficit and Hyperactivity Disorders (ADHD), Anxiety, or Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA). They may have found mainstream education overwhelming - and that's where we come in. Most of our students have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), and every learning journey is carefully tailored to the individual. We work closely with families and professionals to create something that's personalised, purposeful and practical - always built on trust, and always with the child at the centre.

Everything we do is rooted in our three values: Explore, Engage, and Empower. Whether a young person joins us full-time on the farm, as part of an outreach programme at home, or through our post 16 pathways, our approach stays the same - calm, compassionate, and completely tailored to each learner.

For some, Orchard Therapeutic is a fresh start. For others, it's a chance to reconnect - with themselves, with learning, or with the world around them. For all, it's a safe, welcoming space where difference is celebrated and growth is possible.

So, whether you're a young person looking for somewhere to feel more like you, or a parent or professional seeking something that just fits, we're glad you found us.

We hope this prospectus gives you a clear sense of what makes Orchard Therapeutic so special. If you'd like to visit, ask questions, or talk things through - our door, and our gate, is always open.

Warm regards,

LUDIVINE PARMENTIER
CEO/FOUNDER

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WELCOME TO
Orchard Therapeutic Farm

Explore, Engage & Empower





Our Story & Unique Setting

NATURALLY GROWN. GENTLY GUIDED.

Orchard Therapeutic wasn't built overnight. It grew - organically, responsively, and with a clear purpose: to create a safe, inspiring place where young people with additional needs could thrive through real-life, hands-on learning and experiences.

What began as a small, primary-focused provision has now blossomed into a vibrant therapeutic farm offering tailored education to children and young people at primary, secondary, and post-16 levels. As the needs of local families grew, so did we... expanding our facilities, our expertise, and our age range.

We now support students and families from across Oxfordshire, West Berkshire, Wiltshire, Slough, Wokingham, Surrey, Swindon, Buckinghamshire, and beyond - all within our carefully designed, specialist setting.

A PLACE WITH PURPOSE

Every part of Orchard Therapeutic has been intentionally designed to support young people's wellbeing, development and engagement. From animal care areas and horticulture spaces to the calm learning barn and practical workshops where trades and engineering bring learning to life, the environment combines therapeutic practice with hands-on learning. The setting provides a balance of structure, nurture and purposeful activity, enabling young people to feel safe, regulated and ready to engage in meaningful experiences that are outcomes led and supportive.



"The farm feels calm.
I don't feel rushed
here and that helps
me think better."

STUDENT FEEDBACK



OUR ONSITE FACILITIES

THE FARM & ORCHARD

Hands-on learning through animal care, growing, and outdoor exploration

LEARNING BARN

Low-stimulation spaces for focused learning in small groups

THERAPEUTIC SPACES

Designed for calm, connection, and support

THE ANIMAL CARE STUDIO

For calm, practical work experience in animal care

REPTILE BUS

For confidence-building animal interactions and learning about reptiles

THE KITCHEN & COFFEE SHOP

A real working café and bistro to gain experience in food preparation using fresh produce from the farm, customer service, teamwork, and hospitality

THE FISHING POND

A peaceful outdoor space for reflective learning, patience-building, and developing fishing skills

BIRDWATCH LOOKOUTS

Spaces to be still, observe, and reconnect

WOODWORKING STUDIO

Hands-on, creative skill building

THE TRADES BARN

A practical workshop for learning trade skills such as painting, decorating, maintenance and building

ENGINEERING BARN

A hands on space for exploring mechanics, tools and problem solving through practical engineering projects

LEARNING HUB

A central supportive learning space for lessons, reflection, planning and academic support

TAXIDERMY SPACE

Exploring the science and ethics of preservation through hands-on, respectful practice

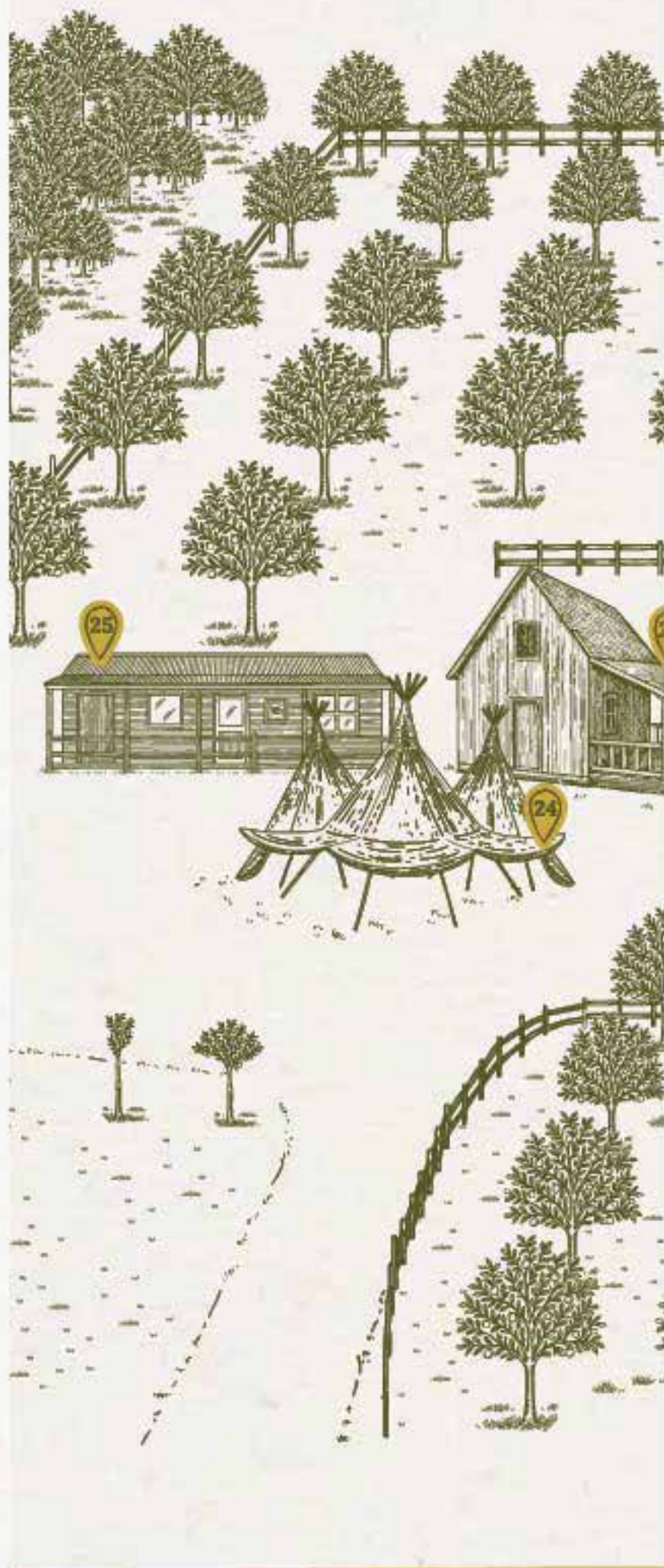
POST 16

A dedicated space where learners build qualifications, independence and work skills through personalised pathways combining study, vocational learning and real world experience.



THE KEY

- 1 Art studio | Learning barn | Kitchen
- 2 Cow shed eatery
- 3 Garden
- 4 Fishing pond
- 5 Sensory room
- 6 Play area & Zip wire
- 7 Goats paddock
- 8 Stables
- 9 Dog grooming
- 10 Woodwork
- 11 Garden
- 12 Wood chopping
- 13 Bushcraft
- 14 Axe throwing
- 15 Bee keeping
- 16 Chicken house
- 17 Reptile bus & Taxidermy
- 18 Cows
- 19 Skill centre
- 20 Workshop
- 21 Aquaponics
- 22 Kitchen | Bistro
- 23 Creamery
- 24 Tipi
- 25 Office
- 26 Toilets





Our Specialist Team

EXPERIENCED, TRAUMA-INFORMED PROFESSIONALS

Our staff are more than facilitators; they're skilled, trauma-informed professionals with expertise in special educational needs.

LUDIVINE PARMENTIER FOUNDER & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Ludivine Parmentier is an experienced education leader with over 30 years' experience working across specialist and inclusive education.

Her career has spanned roles including Special Educational Needs (SEN) teacher in both primary and secondary settings, Headteacher, and Education Director within specialist provisions supporting children and young people with complex learning profiles, emotional needs, and neurodivergence.

As Founder and CEO, Ludivine established Orchard Therapeutic Farm to provide a practical, therapeutic learning environment where education is rooted in real-world experiences.

Her approach integrates trauma-informed practice, vocational learning, and therapeutic support to help young people build confidence, develop life skills, and access meaningful pathways into further education, training, and employment.

Alongside leading Orchard, Ludivine contributes to wider sector development and policy discussions around Alternative Provision and inclusive education, and has completed training as a School Improvement Partner to further support quality and innovation across specialist settings.



We pride ourselves on the positive feedback from schools and parents who see real progress in the young people we support.

Our passion lies in building strong bonds with young people, understanding their unique needs, and guiding them with care through their challenges.

EMILY MAYNE HEAD OF CENTRE

Emily Mayne is the Head of Centre at Orchard Therapeutic Farm and a values-driven educational leader with a strong commitment to inclusive, high-quality provision that enables all learners to thrive.

A qualified teacher with a specialism in Physical Education and Personal Development, Emily brings extensive experience in Special Educational Needs Education, Alternative Provision, mental health, wellbeing, and Trauma Informed Practice.

Emily has held a number of senior leadership roles across specialist and therapeutic settings, including Deputy Head Teacher, Post-16 Lead, and Pastoral and Therapeutic Lead. She has been instrumental in developing provisions, designing curriculums, Therapeutic Frameworks, Training packages and personal development curricula, and creating pathways that support young people to achieve independence and progress into further education, apprenticeships, supported internships, and employment.

Emily is a qualified Thrive Practitioner and Family Thrive Lead and holds a range of professional qualifications in mental health, counselling support, and safeguarding. She has also successfully completed the National Professional Qualification for Headship (NPQH), strengthening her strategic leadership and school improvement expertise.

Emily was awarded the Prydderch Williams Prize for Education at Brunel University in recognition of her academic excellence and commitment to professional practice. She is passionate about creating environments where young people feel safe, valued, and inspired to succeed, and where staff work together to deliver meaningful, life-changing educational experiences.





Our Approach

A THERAPEUTIC SETTING WITH A PRACTICAL SOUL

We're proud to be a specialist Social, Emotional and Mental Health provision, but we're more than just a supportive environment. We're a space where young people build confidence through meaningful learning, discover what excites them, and grow towards a future they believe in.

Our approach is rooted in care and understanding. A dedicated Trauma Informed and Wellbeing Practitioner provides targeted mental health and wellbeing support, while the Thrive approach is fully embedded across our programme, helping staff understand each young person's emotional needs and respond in ways that strengthen wellbeing and engagement. PSHE is woven through every timetable and carefully adapted to developmental stages, supporting emotional health, relationships, personal safety, independence and essential life skills.

Everything at Orchard Therapeutic is designed to feel purposeful and personal. Our students aren't just filling time... they're discovering their own abilities, exploring real-life roles, and developing a deeper sense of who they are and what they can contribute.

EXCEPTIONAL COMMUNICATION & TAILORED PROGRAMMES

Communication is at the heart of our approach. We provide extensive weekly feedback to our students, ensuring that they feel supported and understood.

Our programmes are highly individualised, allowing each young person the opportunity to thrive and form meaningful friendships and relationships.

“When learning is purposeful, practical, and personalised - confidence takes root and futures begin to grow.”





Thrive Approach

BUILDING CONFIDENCE & POSITIVE FUTURES

Whether a young person is caring for animals, working in horticulture, preparing food in the kitchen, or developing practical skills through trades and engineering activities, every experience is purposeful, hands-on and connected to real life.

Guided by the Thrive Approach, staff support young people to feel safe, regulated and ready to engage. Daily routines, relationships and activities are shaped around understanding individual emotional and developmental needs, allowing trust, confidence and resilience to grow.

Each small success becomes a meaningful step forward, helping young people recognise their strengths and believe that greater achievements are possible

By embedding the Thrive Approach across the whole provision, Orchard Therapeutic Farm supports young people to:

- Develop emotional regulation and resilience
- Build positive relationships and trust in adults
- Improve self-confidence and self-awareness
- Re-engage with learning and personal development
- Feel a genuine sense of belonging and purpose

Our goal is not only to support young people while they are with us, but to equip them with the emotional skills, confidence and self-belief they need to move forward into education, training and life beyond the farm.

Our Values

THE ROOTS BENEATH EVERYTHING WE DO

EXPLORE

On our farm, exploration takes centre stage. With expansive landscapes and thoughtfully planned activities, we ignite curiosity and self-discovery. From observing wildlife to hands-on farming, fishing, cookery, art and beyond, each moment becomes a chance for growth.

Exploration here cultivates creativity, resilience, problem-solving, teamwork, and adaptability - essential skills for lifelong learning. While we explore, we act in a safe way; we are aware of ourselves and others and the impact of the decisions we make.



ENGAGE

We prioritise engagement in learning through practical activities and immersive programmes. Active engagement not only nurtures curiosity, critical thinking, and creativity but also instils adaptability and effective communication. These skills go beyond the farm, preparing children for success in the wider world.

At Orchard Therapeutic, being engaged in learning is not just a phase; it's a transformative journey that equips young people with the skills they need to thrive back into their schools or as they transition into their next pathway.



EMPOWER

At Orchard Therapeutic Farm, we help young people build the confidence to try, explore and take positive risks. Our approach encourages each learner to believe in what they can achieve and to recognise their own strengths.

We provide real choices and opportunities for autonomy, allowing young people to contribute to life on the farm in ways that develop responsibility, leadership and self worth. Through practical experiences, young people take on meaningful roles and see the impact of their efforts.

Above all, we create a safe and supportive environment where young people can reflect, set goals and grow at their own pace, developing the skills and self belief needed for their next steps.



The Orchard Model

**OUR PROGRAMMES
& PATHWAYS**



ORCHARD POST 16

Future Pathways



ORCHARD FARM

Core Alternative Learning Provision



ORCHARD BARN

Small Groups at Orchard Barn



ORCHARD OUTREACH

Our Initial 1:1 Programme



REFERRALS
Local Authorities
Schools
Virtual Schools
Other Professionals



ORCHARD CARE

Supported Living for 16+



THRIVE
APPROACH

OUTCOMES LED

MENTAL HEALTH
SUPPORT

OUR VALUES: EXPLORE - ENGAGE - EMPOWER

For 6 - 18+ year olds

PERSONALISED
Orchard
Therapeutic
OUTREACH & BARN
SUPPORT



PERSONALISED SUPPORT,
WHEREVER YOU ARE.

We know that not every child is ready to come straight into a busy learning environment - and that's okay. Orchard Therapeutic brings our nurturing, practical approach to the places young people feel most safe: home or community spaces (Outreach), or a quiet area like the Orchard Barn (Barn).

This is support that meets you where you are - emotionally and physically. With a calm, relational approach, we focus on trust building, communication, and gently exploring what's possible.

WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAY...

“The farm feels calm. I don't feel rushed here and that helps me think better.”

ORCHARD OUTREACH

Our Initial 1:1 Programme

Exploring options, building confidence, and addressing anxieties – all in the comfort of home, a local community space, or online.

Our Outreach programme is a **one-to-one** offer delivered at home, in the community, or online. It's ideal for young people experiencing high levels of anxiety, school avoidance (EBSA), or simply needing time and space to reset. Through consistent relationships and trauma-informed practice, we begin to build confidence, reduce anxiety, and explore next steps at a pace that feels right.




WHERE IT TAKES PLACE:

Home | Community space

WHO IT'S FOR:

- We support primary and secondary who experience high anxiety, EBSA, or are not yet ready for group settings
- Learners needing a bridge back into education or readiness for transition to EET or The Barn

WHAT IT SUPPORTS:

-  Confidence
-  Building safe & key relationships
-  Inclusive culture
-  Reduced anxiety
-  Voice heard
-  Reintegration into structure environment
-  Personalised curriculum & scaffolded learning

ORCHARD BARN

Small Groups at Orchard Barn

Engaging in meaningful, small-group experiences of up to four pupils at the Orchard Barn with consistent staff and environment.

For learners ready to take the next step, our Barn programme offers meaningful, **small-group experiences** of up to four young people to two members of staff, at our calming Orchard Barn space. It's a soft introduction to the wider Orchard offer, allowing young people to explore interests, build friendships, and begin developing life and vocational skills in a safe, supported setting.

WHERE IT TAKES PLACE:

Orchard Barn

WHO IT'S FOR:

- Pupils ready to try small group work
- Learners preparing to access the wider Orchard Farm provision
- Those who benefit from short, regular tasters with high support

WHAT IT SUPPORTS:

-  Social connections
-  Communication with others
-  Self-esteem & confidence
-  Engagement & interaction
-  Vocational exploration
-  Broadening aspirations
-  Life skills

ALTERNATIVE



Orchard Therapeutic FARM

EDUCATION PROVISION



OUR CORE PROGRAMME REAL LEARNING, ROOTED IN REAL LIFE.

Orchard Therapeutic Farm provides a practical, therapeutic, and highly personalised learning environment where young people can reconnect with education through meaningful, real-world experiences. Learning is designed to support young people who may struggle in traditional classroom settings by combining hands-on activities, structured routines, and relationship-based support.

Learning at Orchard Farm is rooted in experiential education. Young people develop knowledge and skills through active participation in a wide range of activities and curriculums across key stages 2, 3, 4 and 5.

These experiences allow learners to build confidence, independence, and responsibility, while developing practical competencies and transferable life skills.

WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAY...

“I like that we learn by doing things,
not just talking about them.”

ORCHARD FARM

Core Alternative Learning Provision

PERSONALISED LEARNING PATHWAYS

Each learner follows an individualised programme that reflects their interests, needs, outcomes and aspirations. Programmes are designed collaboratively with referring schools, families, and support professionals to ensure learning aligns with:

- EHCP outcomes (where applicable)
- Personal development goals
- Engagement and wellbeing priorities
- Future pathways in education, training, or employment

Small group sizes and a high staff-to-student ratio allow for flexible teaching approaches and responsive support, ensuring young people can progress at a pace that suits them.

SKILLS FOR LIFE & FUTURE PATHWAYS

Learning at Orchard Therapeutic Farm focuses not only on academic development but also on preparing young people for adulthood. Young people develop key life and employability skills such as:

- Communication and teamwork
- Problem solving and resilience
- Time management and responsibility
- Practical vocational skills

Where appropriate, young people can work towards recognised accreditation through ASDAN programmes and a range of Level 1 and 2 qualifications, enabling them to gain meaningful qualifications that recognise their achievements.

THERAPEUTIC & TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICE

The farm environment naturally supports a calm, structured, and nurturing approach to learning. Staff use Thrive-informed and relationship-based practices to help young people feel safe, regulated, and ready to engage. Key elements include:

- Predictable routines and visual timetables
- Regular check-ins and mentoring
- Opportunities for sensory breaks and movement
- Supportive staff who build trusting relationships

Working with animals and nature as well as in hands on practical environments can support emotional regulation, confidence building, and improved wellbeing, enabling young people to re-engage positively with learning.

BRIDGE BACK TO EDUCATION

By combining outdoor learning, practical experiences, and strong relational support, the Orchard Therapeutic Farm helps young people rediscover confidence, curiosity, and a sense of achievement in their learning journey.

WORK EXPERIENCE OPPORTUNITIES IN

-  Horticulture
-  Animal care
-  Dog grooming studio
-  Catering & hospitality
-  Cremery (food production)
-  Trades & engineering
-  Business administration
-  Marketing & sales

FUTURE



Orchard Therapeutic

POST 16

PATHWAYS



FUTURE PATHWAYS

Set across our working farm and wider provision spaces, Post 16 learning at Orchard Therapeutic is designed to bridge education and adulthood. It offers a flexible, trauma-informed environment for young people who need a different route forward, one that combines structure with choice and support with independence.

There are two routes: Vocational (Level 1) or Academic (Level 2). Each young person follows a personalised pathway, blending academic learning (up to five qualifications including A Levels), vocational and functional skills (Maths and English), work experience, enrichment opportunities and wellbeing support.

WHAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SAY...

“I’m more confident now because
I’m trusted to do real jobs.”

ORCHARD POST 16

Future Pathways Programme

Supporting young people into adulthood through work experience, qualifications, trades and vocational skills and real life skills for life.

We offer two Post 16 pathways designed to help young people build confidence, develop their skills, and take their next steps towards further education, training, or employment. All learning takes place in small groups of up to six, allowing us to provide bespoke, scaffolded and holistic support for our young people.

VOCATIONAL PATHWAY - LEVEL 1

This pathway offers scaffolded support for learners looking to go into employment and to build up to a level 2 qualification.

Learners will study:

- One Level 1 Qualification in Art, Hospitality and Catering, Trades/Mechanical Engineering, Sport, or Animal Care
- Maths and English Functional Skills
- Work Experience and Practical, Employability Skills
- PSHE and Independent Life Skills
- Thrive Approach and Sessions Supporting Emotional Regulation and Development
- Careers and Employability Guidance

Enrichment opportunities:

Choices include sports, bushcraft, cooking, animal care, fishing, woodwork, enterprise, reptiles and taxidermy.

Progression:

This pathway supports learners to develop fundamental skills needed to support them into adulthood and their next steps in education.

ACADEMIC PATHWAY - LEVEL 2

This pathway is suited to learners aiming to progress into further education or apprenticeships.

Learners will study:

- One Level 2 Qualification in Art, Hospitality and Catering, Trades/Mechanical Engineering, Sport, or Animal Care
- Maths and English (Functional Skills, with GCSEs available from September 2026)
- PSHE and Independent Life Skills
- Work Experience and Practical, Employability Skills
- Thrive Approach and Sessions Supporting Emotional Regulation and Development
- Careers and Employability Guidance

Enrichment opportunities:

Choices include sports, bushcraft, cooking, animal care, fishing, woodwork, enterprise, reptiles and taxidermy.

Progression:

This pathway leads to further education, Level 3 courses and apprenticeships.



Thrive at Orchard Therapeutic Farm

A TRAUMA INFORMED FRAMEWORK SUPPORTING SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT ALONGSIDE EDUCATION

At Orchard Therapeutic Farm, everything we do is rooted in understanding young people, their experiences and their emotional development. Many of the young people who attend our provision have faced challenges such as disrupted attachment, trauma, unmet developmental needs or barriers to learning.

The Thrive Approach helps us understand behaviour not as something to be punished, but as a form of communication. By recognising the emotional needs behind behaviour, staff can respond in ways that help young people feel safe, understood and supported.

A RELATIONAL & INFORMED ENVIRONMENT

At Orchard Therapeutic Farm, relationships are at the heart of everything we do. Staff are trained in Thrive and complementary relational approaches such as PACE (Playfulness, Acceptance, Curiosity and Empathy). These approaches help adults build trusting connections with young people and create an environment where they feel emotionally secure and ready to learn.

Young people are supported by emotionally available adults who take the time to understand their experiences, interests and aspirations. Through these relationships, young people begin to develop trust, confidence and a sense of belonging within the Orchard community.

The Thrive Approach helps us understand behaviour not as something to be punished, but as a form of communication. By recognising the emotional needs behind behaviour, staff can respond in ways that help young people feel safe, understood and supported.

SUPPORTING REGULATION, CONNECTION & GROWTH

The Thrive framework guides our daily practice through four key principles: **Protect, Relate, Regulate and Reflect** which shape every interaction from learning activities at the provision to therapeutic sessions and everyday conversations.

- **PROTECT:** Creating safe, calm and predictable environments where young people feel secure and valued.
- **RELATE:** Building strong, trusting relationships with adults and peers.
- **REGULATE:** Helping young people develop strategies to manage emotions, stress and anxiety.
- **REFLECT:** Supporting young people to understand their feelings, behaviour and experiences.

LEARNING THROUGH MEANINGFUL EXPERIENCES

Orchard Therapeutic Farm's environment provides a powerful setting for Thrive-informed learning. Working with animals, caring for the land and engaging in hands-on activities helps young people develop emotional regulation, responsibility and confidence. Practical tasks also provide natural opportunities for teamwork, communication and reflection.

Through these experiences, young people begin to see themselves differently – not through the lens of past difficulties, but through their strengths, achievements and potential.



Admissions & Enrolment

THE RIGHT SUPPORT FROM THE START.

We know that deciding on a new setting can feel daunting, especially when things haven't gone to plan elsewhere. That's why our admissions process is designed to be child-centred clear, and calm from the very beginning.

Referrals typically come through local authorities, schools, or EOTAS (Education Other Than At School) teams.

Once we've received a referral, our team will be in touch with parents and carers to arrange an informal visit. *We want families and students to get a real feel for what Orchard Therapeutic Farm is like - the space, the people, the pace.*

If everyone agrees that it's the right fit, we'll move forward with a Service Level Agreement with the referrer, outlining the placement and support. From there, we begin our carefully planned transition: taster days, Service Level Agreements (SLA), informal assessments, and a supportive induction designed to build relationships and help each child feel safe.

We recognise that each child is unique, and our admissions process reflects our commitment to tailoring our support to their individual needs. Our goal is to provide a safe, nurturing, and empowering environment where every child can thrive and embark on a journey of personal growth and achievement.

If you'd like more detail, our full admissions policy is available to view online - and as ever, we're happy to talk you through it.

“We don't rush the process.
We build the foundations first.”

Parental Involvement & Communication

WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP

At Orchard Therapeutic, we believe the best outcomes happen when everyone works together, which is why we work closely with families, commissioners, schools and wider professionals to support each young person.

From day one, parents and carers are welcomed as part of our Orchard community. We stay in close contact with weekly updates from life on the farm, alongside detailed progress reports that celebrate each child's achievements - often with photos that show just how far they've come. It's always honest, always collaborative, and always centred around your child.

“We don't just inform parents and carers, we involve them.”

Families are encouraged to take an active role in the Orchard community through Thrive training sessions and our regular SEN group meetings, creating space to share experiences, build understanding and strengthen the support around each young person.



Our community is something you can see and experience. The Kitchen opens on Friday mornings as a working café run by our young people, welcoming parents, guardians and carers as well as members of the public. It offers a chance to see the farm in action, celebrate learners' growing confidence and feel part of the wider Orchard community.



Get in Touch

For all referrals and queries please contact our referrals team:

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