



Setting up a farm visit

Food for Life online course FFL001

Funding

We're all aware that visiting a farm with a group could be expensive, so here are some tips on how you might think about funding your visit.

Firstly, find out from the farmer how much the visit will cost. You may be lucky and find a farm that doesn't charge for visits. Alternatively, the farm may either charge a flat fee or a charge per person. Once you know how much the visit will cost, you can then start to think about how you are going to pay for it.

Countryside Stewardship is a government administered scheme that provides farmers with financial incentives to maintain and create areas of conservation interest. One element of this scheme is educational access. Those farms in receipt of this option, will be paid through the scheme to host school visits. This means that the school would not need to pay for the visit. Always remember to ask if the farm receives Countryside Stewardship Educational Access payments when speaking to them.

School Farmers' Markets involve local producers setting up stalls in your school alongside the pupils' own stalls, and selling their produce to parents and members of the community. Often the school will charge local producers a small fee for a stall and make money from selling their own garden produce and baked goods, which can then be used to fund visits to farms.

Another option is that each class in the school has a **savings account**, which they are responsible for keeping topped up by raising funds. There are many ways the pupils raise money. For example, pupils



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might harvest produce from the school garden and cook seasonal recipes to then sell to parents and the local community. Other options could include charging a pound for children to come to school in their own clothes, or having a 'farm visit raffle' at the school fete. You might also speak to the Parent Teacher Associations to see if they might be able to raise funds for the farm visit.

Sell your old tech. Everyone has got an old mobile phone tucked away in a drawer somewhere. You may consider using one of the many websites on the internet to sell your old phones to raise funds for farm visits. There are loads of sites that buy a range of unwanted consumer electronics. Maybe you could ask parents for any old items and then sell them to one of the many companies out there.

Pupil Premium. In 2011, the Government produced the Natural Choice white paper which outlined their vision for the conservation of the natural environment and how the public engage with it. In chapter four of the paper, it identified the importance of schools utilising outdoor learning opportunities and suggests the use of the pupil premium as a way of funding such visits. It read:

'We have created a Pupil Premium, intended to raise the attainment of children from low-income families. This could be used to give fairer access to nature for pupils from deprived backgrounds, for example funding school trips to experience the natural environment. It will be for schools to decide how best to use the Premium for the benefit of their pupils.'