



Education Placements

Jamie's Farm exists to improve life outcomes for young people who are facing disadvantage. We work in partnership with schools, and know first-hand the importance of improving the capacity of teachers and school leaders to effect meaningful change within the classrooms and communities of pupils as part of our charitable mission.

To empower young people to thrive, we know that it's essential they are supported to build critical social and emotional skills and strong relationships with the adults around them. At Jamie's Farm, our methodology is highly effective in achieving this. Completing a placement with Jamie's Farm will enhance knowledge and skills in relational practice, enabling participants to return to the classroom feeling better equipped as relational practitioners and able to create inclusive environments where all children feel they belong.

The methodology

Our evidence-based, holistic methodology combines three elements to build young people's confidence, motivation and initiative, all of which help to resolve communication and academic participation barriers. It is based on the principle that relationships, and relational practice, are at the core of all impactful work with children and young people. The core principles of this practice are:

Understanding behaviour as communication

All behaviour is a form of communication. While we aren't expected to be therapists, it's vital that we learn to interpret what a young person may be expressing through their actions, so we can respond in ways that genuinely support them and encourage positive engagement.

Building positive relationships

By meeting a child exactly where they are, and approaching them with playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy (PACE), foundations for strong, trusting relationships are built. These relationships create the emotional safety young people need to feel seen, valued and able to reach out for support when they need it.

Using a strengths-based approach

Starting with what's strong, not what's wrong. Grounded in appreciative inquiry and unconditional positive regard, this approach recognises that children thrive when we build on their existing strengths, capabilities and successes. By focusing on what they can do they are empowered to grow in confidence, agency and engagement.



The Placement Offer

During the placement, participants will fully experience the Jamie's Farm programme by living and working alongside our highly skilled team during a weeklong residential visit. A significant proportion of our delivery teams are former teachers and school leaders, with a range of experience across mainstream secondary, primary, alternative provisions and special schools.

“ The Jamie's Farm team have had a massive impact...The conversations I had with staff were truly inspiring. I believe this experience will stay with me for the rest of my life. ”

Placement Participant

In addition to the placement, participants will complete a comprehensive prework module, induction and workshop during the week to develop their understanding led by experienced Jamie's Farm staff, who will dedicate time during the placement to share key learnings and guidance around common behaviour challenges.

Beyond the placement, participants will receive access to the Jamie's Farm Resource Hub, which contains tools and resources to support what they have learnt back in their practice in the classroom. If requested, there is also an opportunity to experience the farm again, with a different group of young people, potentially at a different farm location, in order to work alongside a different set of needs and develop practice further.

Timeline

RESIDENTIAL



PRE-WORK

In preparation for the placement, participants will complete a short learning module to ground them in the methodology behind the programme.



OBSERVATION

Using the placement workbook, participants complete guided observations during the residential week.



WORKSHOP

During the placement, participants will share their observations in a structured workshop.



REFLECTION

On the final day of placement, participants will join together in a final debrief and reflection session.



FOLLOW UP

After the placement, participants will be asked to provide feedback on their experience.

What participants will gain

Throughout the week, participants will be working alongside the Jamie's Farm team in every aspect of programme delivery. Through observing and being part of the team, they will have a unique, hands-on opportunity to develop their understanding of:

“ It's given me a greater understanding of young people's behaviour and how it changes based on environment. I think this will give me a better understanding of how to manage challenging behaviour in and outside the classroom ”

Placement Participant

Key learning	Early Career Framework
The root causes of different types of behaviour and the importance of understanding young people as individuals.	Managing Behaviour (5) Building effective relationships is easier when pupils believe that their feelings will be considered and understood
How to build positive relationships with children and the importance of role modelling. Using your voice and your non-verbal communication in order to de-escalate situations and prevent them from arising in the first place	High Expectations (2) Teachers are key role models, who can influence the attitudes, values and behaviours of their pupils.
Understanding triggers – our pupils' and our own – and the impact of these on both their behaviour and your practice. What's going on in the brain when we behave in different ways?	High Expectations (1) Teachers have the ability to affect and improve the wellbeing, motivation and behaviour of their pupils.
How to build a culture of positive reinforcement, both with and between young people.	High Expectations (5) A culture of mutual trust and respect supports effective relationships.
Techniques for managing emotions in young people, and creating environments that enable them to regulate effectively.	Managing Behaviour (4) The ability to self-regulate one's emotions affects pupils' ability to learn, success in school and future lives.
How to adopt a strengths-based approach to working with young people, focusing on the positives to enable them to achieve their potential.	Managing Behaviour (4) Teachers can influence pupils' resilience and beliefs about their ability to succeed, by ensuring all pupils have the opportunity to experience meaningful success.
The principles of creating a safe and secure environment for all children, and a sense of belonging and its particular impact on children who are facing disadvantage.	Managing Behaviour (2) A predictable and secure environment benefits all pupils, but is particularly valuable for pupils with special educational needs.



What we expect from participants

Responsibilities during the placement include, but are not limited to:

- Meaningful engagement with the induction pre-work module, workshop and reflective sessions;
- Supporting young people in purposeful work (mainly cooking, farming, horse work) alongside skilled and experienced JF staff;
- Supporting our staff by keeping young people engaged and modelling a 'can do' attitude;
- Participating in group sessions, including therapeutic meetings where appropriate;
- Preparing meals and supporting the kitchen team where appropriate;
- Supporting the group on daily hikes;
- Leading some group meetings/activities where appropriate;
- Possible administrative tasks linked to the visit, including writing up individual notes.

In addition, we expect participants to have:

- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills;
- Resilience, flexibility and ability to use initiative;
- Interest or experience in working in social work, therapeutic community or educational setting;
- Interest in the benefits of education beyond the classroom, especially for vulnerable groups;
- Sensitivity to racial, cultural and ideological diversity;
- Ability to exemplify Jamie's Farm core values of respect, empathy, nurture and belonging;
- Enhanced DBS check.

When and where are placements available?

Jamie's Farm has 6 residential farms operating for 40 weeks per year, including during the school holidays. We can offer placements throughout the year at any of our residential sites based across the UK. **Placements at our residential farms include all food and accommodation for the duration.**

Application

Whether you are a trainee teacher, school leader or university provider please fill in an expression of interest form and we will be in touch with more information.

