

Barleylands Riding School
Frequently Asked Questions & Lesson Guidance

What should I wear to my lesson?

We recommend comfortable and practical clothing with long sleeves and trousers. Leggings or jogging bottoms are fine, but not jeans, or shorts/skirts. Long sleeves should always be worn. Jewellery must not be worn – it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure children are not wearing jewellery when riding. Footwear – no trainers please. Any shoes with a small heel and ideally a smooth sole (Chelsea boots or school shoes are fine) and nothing too bulky. Please ensure you do not have your phone/care keys in your pocket. Lessons may be held indoors or outside so dress appropriately to the time of year but be aware coats etc must be securely fastened so as not to flap around.

Where do I go for my lesson?

Most lessons are held in the indoor arena (big green building straight ahead of the car park behind the yard manager office) which also has a waiting area. Please do be prepared that lessons are sometimes held in the outdoor arena opposite the indoor arena. Hacks are mounted in the arena before heading out and will go ahead unless the weather is deemed too bad and then we will notify you. Own a pony days please go straight to the riding school yard or wait by your car and our staff will assist – again clothing must be appropriate to the time of year, children also require a packed lunch for this activity.

Are there any age, weight, or medical restrictions?

We offer lessons for riders aged 4 and over, and up to 12 stone. We do reserve the right to weigh any rider before a lesson commences as this can be a welfare issue for our horses. When making your booking you will be asked to disclose any relevant medical conditions.

Can I book a private lesson or voucher?

We only offer group lessons at our riding school and are not currently offering vouchers due to having a waitlist in place. We are unable to deviate from the timetable published on our booking site due to availability of the riding arenas and the workload of the horses.

I'm not sure my child will enjoy riding, can we observe or book a trial first?

Any new clients are offered a trial lesson before committing to a full term block booking. Our child protection policy means that only parents/guardians of our riders on that lesson can be in attendance therefore we do not allow observation of lessons.

What level lesson is suitable for me?

We are a fairly small riding school offering training from beginner to intermediate/advanced, adhering to British Horse Society standards (of which we are an approved centre). We have two standard types of lesson, either half hour or 1 hour, with a maximum of 5 riders on each. The half hour lessons are suitable for complete beginners up to learning to canter as the format is such that each rider receives individual feedback and tuition within the lesson as well as group tuition. The one-hour lessons are suitable for riders that can canter, and are either learning to jump or can jump already, as these lessons encompass some flatwork and some poles/jumping. Adult only groups are Thursday evenings.