



# THE BARNFIELDS WAY

## Our Approach to Riding, Progression & Rider Development

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At Barnfields Riding Stables, we believe riding is about far more than simply learning how to walk, trot, canter and jump.

Our aim is to develop knowledgeable, confident and compassionate horse people who understand not only how to ride, but also how to care for, respect and advocate for their horses.

We are proud to offer a new era of coaching that combines riding skills, horsemanship, horse welfare, biomechanics and rider education to build a solid foundation that will support riders throughout their entire equestrian journey.



# Riding Is Not A Race

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One of the most common misconceptions in riding is that progression is measured by how quickly a rider moves from walking to trotting, cantering or jumping.

At Barnfields, we don't see progression that way.

A rider's development is measured through:

- ✓ Confidence
- ✓ Balance
- ✓ Position
- ✓ Communication
- ✓ Horsemanship
- ✓ Decision making
- ✓ Horse welfare awareness
- ✓ Independence
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Understanding of the horse

Many of these skills cannot be measured simply by whether a rider can canter or jump.

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# Learning To Ride Isn't Always About Going Up The Gears

No matter what grade a rider reaches, we will always revisit the fundamentals.

Even our most experienced riders regularly return to:

- Rider position
- Balance and coordination
- Effective use of aids
- Transitions
- Horse welfare
- Flatwork foundations
- Horsemanship skills

For this reason, riders may not always trot, canter or jump in every lesson.

Sometimes the most valuable lesson is the one that improves a rider's position, confidence, effectiveness or understanding of their horse.

**The best riders never stop practising the basics.**



# Our Grading System

Our grading system is designed to help us:

- Match riders to suitable horses
- Ensure lessons remain safe and enjoyable
- Identify areas for development
- Track progress over time
- Create confident, well-rounded riders

Progression is NOT based on:

- ✗ Time spent riding
- ✗ Number of lessons completed
- ✗ Age
- ✗ How much a rider wants to canter or jump

Progression IS based on:

- ✓ Consistent competency
  - ✓ Confidence
  - ✓ Control
  - ✓ Horsemanship
  - ✓ Safety awareness
  - ✓ Readiness for the next stage
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For this reason, riders progress at different rates.

Two riders may have ridden for the same amount of time but be at completely different stages in their development.



**This is normal and should be expected.**



# The Horse Comes First

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Equestrian sport is made up of three equally important elements:

-  The Horse
-  The Rider
-  The Partnership

Our responsibility is not simply to teach people how to ride.

Our responsibility is to teach riders how to support the horse's physical and emotional wellbeing whilst developing a balanced and effective partnership.

This means riders are encouraged to understand:

- Horse behaviour
- Horse welfare
- Tack and equipment
- Fitness and wellbeing
- Stable management
- Responsibility and care







**Because great horse people are made both in and out of the saddle.**

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## Building Riders For Life

Our vision is to build a solid foundation that sets riders up for life, whether their journey leads to:

-  Riding for pleasure
-  Pony sharing
-  Horse ownership
-  Competitions
-  Coaching
-  Professional equestrian careers

Or simply a lifelong love of horses.

Our goal is not to create riders who can simply "get around the arena".

**Our goal is to create knowledgeable, confident and compassionate horse people.**



# Our Promise

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At Barnfields Riding Stables, we promise to:

- ✓ Prioritise horse welfare
  - ✓ Prioritise rider safety
  - ✓ Encourage confidence
  - ✓ Develop horsemanship
  - ✓ Support every rider's individual journey
  - ✓ Celebrate progress at every stage
  - ✓ Create a welcoming and supportive environment
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Because learning to ride is not about how quickly you progress through the grades.

**It's about becoming the very best horse person you can be.**

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 **Happy Riders. Happy Horses. Strong Partnerships.**

**That's The Barnfields Way.**

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