

Frequently Asked Questions for SENse the Safari Education Centre

Below is a collection of the most commonly asked questions that SEND educators, teachers, therapists, and families may wish to ask before booking a visit. This information is designed to help visitors feel confident when planning their day.

Accessibility and Suitability

Is the SEND classroom suitable for children with complex sensory needs?

Yes. The classroom has been designed to support a wide range of sensory profiles. It includes both stimulating areas for exploration and calm spaces for regulation, so children can engage at a pace that feels comfortable.

What accessibility features does the classroom include?

The facility includes, wide doorways, adaptable height furniture, and sound-proofed doors, windows and ceiling to minimise sensory overload. The lighting and temperature of each zone can also be adjusted to meet the needs of each group.

The animal food preparation area includes lowered sinks and rising benches for flexible use.

All areas have clear visual and tactile signage including BSL and braille signs.

There is a fully equipped sensory room.

Every space has been planned to support physical, sensory, and communication needs.

Can wheelchair users access all areas?

Yes, there are no steps between the disabled parking bays and the classroom.

All indoor and outdoor areas linked to the classroom are wheelchair accessible, including the main classroom, the animal room and the sensory room.

Is there a quiet or decompression area?

Yes. A dedicated sensory room can be used as a decompression zone, available for any learner who needs time away from their school group or booked activity / workshop to regulate or rest.

How many students can the classroom accommodate?

Group sizes vary depending on needs, but the space is designed to comfortably support small to medium SEND groups. Educators can discuss group size during booking.

The classroom can be hired for a half or full day, for this the maximum number of individuals are 120 ambulant, 46 non-ambulant or 60 in a mixed group of both ambulant and non-ambulant.

Planning and Logistics

What does a typical session involve?

SEND-friendly sessions will include a mix of sensory activities, hands-on learning linked to animal care, and opportunities for exploration. Activities are adapted to suit the needs of each learning group.

Popular tuff tray sessions cover a wide range of topics, including:
Woodlands ~ Arctic & Antarctic ~ Deserts ~ Oceans ~ Messy play (with eco-slime)

How long is each session?

Session length can be tailored to meet the needs of each group, however school group sessions tend to be 20-30 minutes in length.

Home Educator or SEND-Friendly workshop activities usually run between 45 and 90 minutes depending on the booking. Longer visits can include time in the outdoor areas or additional activities.

Can sessions be tailored to individual needs?

Yes. Educators should share information about their learners in advance so the team can adapt activities, pace, and communication methods to their needs.

What information do you need before we arrive?

It is helpful to know group size, adult to child ratios, arrival and departure times, access needs, sensory considerations, communication preferences, and any specific goals for the visit.

Is there somewhere to eat lunch or take breaks?

Yes. There are designated areas for breaks, snacks, and lunch, including outdoor picnic spaces.

What should we bring?

Most resources are provided. Educators may wish to bring comfort items, communication tools, or any personal equipment their learners rely on.

Safety and Wellbeing

How do you support learners who become overwhelmed?

Staff are trained to recognise signs of sensory overload and can guide learners to the decompression zone or adjust activities to reduce pressure.

Are staff trained in SEND awareness?

Yes. The education team has experience working with a wide range of SEND needs and receives ongoing training in communication, accessibility, and supportive practice.

What happens if a learner needs to leave early?

Groups are welcome to adjust their visit at any time. The classroom can be used flexibly to support individual needs, subject to availability.

Are medical or personal care facilities available?

Yes. Accessible toilets are nearby, and a Changing Places Toilet is available within the park a short distance away from the SENse the Safari Education Centre.

There is a rota of first aid trained staff on duty, throughout each area of the Park, at all times.

Learning Experience and Outcomes

What learning outcomes can we expect?

Learners can build confidence, communication skills, sensory awareness, and an understanding of animals and nature. Activities are designed to support wellbeing and curiosity.

How does the session link to the curriculum?

Workshops support science, PSHE, communication development, and experiential learning. Educators can request specific curriculum links when booking.

Do you offer differentiated activities?

Yes. Activities can be adapted for mixed ability groups, including non-verbal or visually impaired learners and those who benefit from structured choice.

Can students interact with animals?

Learners may take part in supervised activities such as preparing animal food or exploring animal artefacts. Direct interaction varies depending on the session but can include interacting with species such as stick insects, giant snails, and more.

Booking, Pricing, and Availability

How do we book the SEND classroom?

- For school visit bookings please use the enquiry form on the [SEND Classroom](#) web page for all booking enquiries.

Educators can also send an email to education@woburnsafari.co.uk or by phone to 01525 292124 to discuss availability and session options.

- Home Educators can [book via this link online](#).
- For parents of individual young learners with SEND, take a look at the SEND-Friendly Workshop which [can be booked via this link](#).

Is there a cost for SEND groups?

Pricing varies depending on the booking type, basic and enhanced prices are available for Ofsted registered schools.

Some groups may be eligible for discounted rates or funded opportunities through local authority programmes.

How far in advance should we book?

Early booking is recommended, especially for peak times or exclusive access sessions.

Do you offer quieter visiting times?

Yes. Educators can request sessions during less busy periods to support learners who prefer a calmer environment.

Support for Families and Home Educators**Can families book the SEND classroom?**

Yes. Families and home educators are welcome to enquire about sessions designed for smaller groups or individual learners.

- Home Educators can [book sessions via this link online](#).
- For parents of individual young learners with SEND, take a look at the SEND-Friendly Workshop which [can be booked via this link](#).

Is the classroom suitable for non-speaking children?

Yes. The space supports a wide range of communication needs, and staff can use visual tools, gestures, and alternative communication methods using [Widgit symbols](#).

Can siblings attend?

Siblings are welcome, and activities can be adapted to include them.

Do you provide visual schedules or social stories?

Yes. Pre visit materials such as social scripts and visual guides can be shared to help learners prepare.