

Your Lesson May Be Adapted

An extreme weather warning does **not necessarily mean that your lesson will be cancelled.**

Where we can safely continue, your lesson or activity may instead be **adapted to suit the conditions and protect the welfare of our horses and ponies.**

For example, during particularly hot weather your normal lesson may become:

A shaded walk-out

A quieter ride using shaded areas where appropriate.

A slower-paced ridden session

Reducing strenuous work and allowing additional rest periods.

A position-focused lesson

Working on rider position, balance, effectiveness and technique without requiring more demanding work from the horse.

A stable management session

Your ridden session may be replaced with practical horse-care or stable-management training where we consider ridden work inappropriate.

Other suitable activities or adaptations may also be used depending on the circumstances.

Horse Welfare Comes First

Our horses and ponies cannot tell us when the weather is becoming too much, so **we have a responsibility to make that decision for them.**

During extreme conditions, we may reduce the intensity or duration of ridden work, alter the planned activity, change the horse allocated to a rider or replace ridden work with an alternative educational session.

The decision will take into account the individual horse as well as the conditions on the day.

This means your lesson may look different from the session you originally expected — but it will still be designed to give you a **valuable learning experience while putting horse welfare first.**

When Lessons May Be Cancelled

If management considers conditions **unsafe for horses, riders or staff**, we reserve the right to cancel lessons and activities.

This may occur where severe weather creates unacceptable risks on site, in the arenas, while handling horses or when travelling to and from the centre.

Where Smugglers makes the decision to cancel a session, affected clients will be contacted and advised of the arrangements.

Please do not assume your lesson is cancelled simply because a weather warning has been issued. **Unless you hear otherwise from us, please assume your session is going ahead.**

Please Support Our Decisions

We appreciate that riders may sometimes be disappointed if their planned jumping, canter or more strenuous session needs to be changed.

However, decisions to adapt activities are made with the **welfare of our horses and ponies and the safety of everyone at the centre in mind.**

By booking a lesson or activity at Smugglers Equestrian Centre, clients accept that **lesson content may be adapted according to weather and environmental conditions.**

Different lesson. Same opportunity to learn. Horse welfare always comes first.