



## ENGAGE, EDUCATE, EMPOWER



**FARM-SAFE  
SCHOOLS**



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

# AgriKids Engage – Educate, Empower

This summary outlines the following proposals and seek support for same:

1. Farm Safe Schools Programme that is currently in discussion between AgriKids, Agri Aware and the IFA. Based on pilot success the programme will be delivered to primary schools nationwide, where farm safety is a curriculum requirement under Social Personal and Health Education (SPHE).
2. Research project with NUI Galway to conduct research into whether teaching kids about farm safety can change the farm safety 'culture' in the home and/or community.

Considerations: Galway County Council to present deputation via zoom or other platform to the 39 members of Galway County Council.

This proposal would potentially satisfy some objectives outlined by various Strategic Policy Committees where agriculture is included.

## 1. Farm Safe Schools Programme

### Brief Objective

Together, AgriKids, Agri Aware and the Irish Farmers Association (IFA), are compiling a pilot programme that will oversee the delivery of a national farm safety programme in primary schools.

This interactive educational resource will assist teachers in educating their students about the potential dangers associated with farming and agriculture, and is part of a national strategy, aimed at reducing the number of accidents on farms and in the countryside. Additional collaboration and input will be sought from those stakeholders outlined below who can also provide additional content and support.

This programme will be a starting point on communicating the importance of farm and countryside safety to initially both primary and then to secondary level students as part of the current Ag Science module in the Leaving Cert Curriculum.

Engaging children and young adults from an early age on the importance of farm and countryside safety is crucial given the high percentage of farm accidents and fatalities that involve children. Therefore, learning about farm and countryside safety at a young age will allow children to take these important messages and lessons with them for life, and encourage safe practices on the farm into the future.

Modules will be theme based and content created for each class range and will be supported with activities relevant to each theme. All activities are to be logged with evidence showing the completion of each module.

At the end of the programme each school will be asked to make its 'Farm Safety Promise' or 'Farm Safety Pledge' – this is to create the sense of empowerment from the series of activities and to create a duty of care to remain safe and to always remember safety. Completed log books and / or dedicated online logs are to be submitted for review and each school will receive a plaque as accredited of their 'Farm Safe School' status'

Participating schools in the pilot will be asked to share their events and feedback to the programme co-ordinators.

The outcome of this pilot will potentially form the basis in determining the viability of an all-inclusive and interactive farm safety educational programme for primary school children as set out under the requirements of the SPHE curriculum. Participating schools will also be encouraged to create their own activities and asked to share these activities so we may build a bank of resources that can be replicated by schools in the future.

## Class Levels

Age Groups:

1. Infants
2. First - third class
3. Fourth – sixth class

## Curriculum Links:

- Social, personal and health education (SPHE)
- Social, environmental and scientific education (SESE): Science, Geography
- Language: The lesson plans to be available in both English and Irish.

## Calendar Suggestion

February - May

## Relevant content suppliers / stakeholders:

- 31 Local Authorities
- Health & Safety Authority (HSA)
- Road Safety Authority (RSA)
- Teagasc
- ESB Networks
- Farm Relief Services (FRS)
- Irish Water Safety (IWS)

## Modules and Content:

A series of farm safety themed activities will be designed and made available to each school involved in the pilot:

### Module 1 - Machinery & Vehicles

- Tractor safety
- Know the blind spots
- PTO safety
- Quad bike safety
- What machines farmers use
- Tractor checklist

#### Learning outcomes:

- Tractor Safety (Blind spots, legal age, PTO, Seat and Seatbelt needed for children.)
- Quad Bike Safety (Legal age, Rollovers, their use on Farm)
- Fertilizer/Slurry Spreading (what is fertiliser? Agitation process and dangers)

### Module 2 - Animals

- Know the warning signs
- Bulls
- Cows & calves
- Horses
- Zoonoses
- Animal care & wellbeing

#### Learning outcomes:

- Animal Welfare



- How to approach animals
- Safe Handling Practices (Don't disturb animals, Safe Practices)
- Different Animals and dangers associated with each.

### **Module 3 - Farm & Fields**

- Farm visit checklist
- Know the safety sign meanings
- Farm Yard care
- Slurry safety
- Electricity safety
- Water safety
- Working at heights

#### Learning outcomes:

- Gates (Safety Around Fences, no trespassing)
- Slurry Pit & other drowning hazards and water dangers.
- Hay Shed/Barn Storage (Stacked high and dangerous don't play in)
- Where does it come from?(burning Fossil Fuels)
- Wind Farms (Renewable energy)
- Powerlines (what are they and why their dangerous)
- Plugs/Sockets etc.
- Emergency Help (999 / 112 and Eircodes)
- Chemical Safety (What are chemicals, Why they are used, Stored away from children / PPE use)

### **The Outcome**

At the end of the programme each school will be asked to make its 'Farm Safety Promise' or 'Farm Safety Pledge' – this is to create the sense of empowerment from the week long activity and to create a sense of duty of care to remain safe and always remember safety. This 'pledge' will be logged in the FSS log book and submitted to be reviewed. Aside from receiving a plaque detailing their participation in the pilot, schools will also benefit in the following ways:

1. Grow the participants awareness to various farm safety issues
2. Permit the children to interact and engage on the topic of farm safety
3. Enrol the help of farming representatives in their area to assist them
4. Allow the children to share their learning outcomes
5. Allow the children to undertake research on the topic

### **Getting involved in the pilot:**

Agri Aware will contact schools to take part in the pilot. Each school will receive the following:

1. Details on each week's theme
2. Details on activities relating to each theme
3. List of useful resources and contacts to assist them

Note: schools who call in outside representatives such as farmers and vets to assist them will be asked to include details of those representatives so a letter can be sent to thank them for taking part and to see if they would be interested in taking part in the future.

Schools will also be encouraged to share ideas and resources so a bank of knowledge can be created that will be accessible to all. This will encourage new and innovative learning and teaching practices to be shared and will keep the farm safety themes consistent and up to date.

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## **2. Research Project with NUI Galway**

I have recently been in talks with Denis O'Hora from NUI Galway with regards to conducting research into whether teaching children about farm safety can change the farm safety 'culture' in homes or communities.

“Essentially, the project would whether and how reading the books at school as part of a class will affect safety culture at home and in school. There are a few basic research questions that it would address

- Can kids can be employed as a vector to transmit safety practices into farms via the farm family?
- Can school-based interventions change home culture (there’s evidence of this, but not specific to farming)?
- Are there modifications of the product that would enhance home transmission?
- Are there additional products that might supplement this strategy (the company already sell hi-vis home clothing)?

We believe that children are one way that we get messages about what our community values. We need messages that farming is valued and messages that farming safety is valued.

There’s evidence that social norms are powerful in changing behaviour (“that’s the done thing”) and in preventing behaviour change (“Nobody in their right mind would do that”).

These talks are at a preliminary stage.

# About AgriKids – Alma Jordan, Founder

AgriKids is a farm safety educational platform for children which was founded in 2015.

The ethos is to **Engage, Educate and Empower** our children to be farm safety ambassadors. It was founded after 2014, the year Ireland had its worst on record for farm fatalities. Thirty people, perished on farms that year, five of whom were children.

To this end AgriKids has created a suite of resources and services which are designed to create dialogue and interaction on the topic of farm safety in homes, classrooms and within communities all around Ireland.

Sharing the burden of responsibility with farmers on spreading the farm safety message, AgriKids is instilling this knowledge in our children.

Children are passionate and instinctive learners. From work I had done on Green Schools I saw first-hand how children were influencing their parents to create better recycling systems at home. Engaging and educating children on farm safety will encourage them to grow instinctively safer while also empowering them to influence and create dialogue with their parents on the topic.

Using story books, workshops and digital resources, the AgriKids concept is emerging as a leader in farm safety education for children.

During Covid 19 AgriKids has now moved it's workshops to online events reaching in excess of 10,000 children in their homes and classrooms between May and December 2020.



## Key success factors

- Signed three year partnership with Zurich Ireland to run farm safety workshops in primary schools and at various events nationally.
- Included in Government report as a recommended farm safety strategy.
- Worked on farm safety initiatives with key partners such as libraries, An Garda Siochana, Teagasc, IFA, ABP Foods and Carbury Group.
- Developed child friendly farm safety newsletter for Teagasc's 20,000 clients
- Developed gaming app on iOS and Android platforms
- Provide farm safety lesson plans and resources online, including white board games
- Wrote and launched three story books and activity book for children
- Partnered with Ulster Bank & HSENI for child centric farm safety initiative at Balmoral Show



Eamon Sheehan 🇮🇪 @eamon\_sheehan · Jun 10

Well done to Alma Jordan today on the Zoom @agrikid Farm safety video call. The kids really enjoyed it and learned a lot from it. #FarmSafety #AgriAware #Agrikids.



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🔄 2

❤️ 22





## School Reviews

### AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Runnamoat N.S. (optional)

Please circle your answer



Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves &amp; provide an overview to ascertain knowledge &amp; ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4 (5)
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Engagement				
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Learning Outcome				
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Can you explain your answer? <i>Parents reported back to class teacher how their child had thoroughly enjoyed alma's visit &amp; had informed them of important farm safety messages e.g. do not enter a field with a bull.</i>				
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	4 (5)
Any additional feedback would be great! 😊				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* This organisation should visit every school in the country. It is equally as important as road safety, especially for children from farming backgrounds.</li> <li>* It is reassuring to know the children have had farm safety explained to them by alma.</li> <li>* Keep up the good work alma!</li> </ul>				

Excellent



### AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Gaelscoil Chaladh an Treagh (optional)

Please circle your answer 1-5.



Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much	
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves &amp; provide an overview to ascertain knowledge &amp; ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4	5
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Engagement</b>					
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4	5
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Learning Outcome</b>					
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4	5
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3	4	5
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	4	5
Can you explain your answer?	a lot of parents were glad that such a talk was given in school.				
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	4	5

I hope so.

Any additional feedback would be great! 😊

Alma was a great presenter. The children & teacher really enjoyed her presentation.

We hope to see her back again.

Deirdre Scrymgeour





## AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: Gowran NS, Co. Kilkenny (optional) Please circle

your answer 1-5.

Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much	
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves &amp; provide an overview to ascertain knowledge &amp; ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4	5x
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4	5x
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4	5x
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4	5x
<b>Engagement</b>					
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4	5x
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4	5x
<b>Learning Outcome</b>					
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4	5x
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3x*	4	5
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	4x	5
Can you explain your answer? The teachers asked the children to chat to their parents as part of their homework, using the poster you gave them and followed up on parents' reactions the following day.					
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	4x	5
Any additional feedback would be great!  The workshop was excellent – it certainly was among the best we've had in terms of engagement and real relevance to rural children. Your material was so appropriately pitched for each age group and you had their attention from start to finish with your stories and props. Your love of all things farming shone through and the children really appreciated that. Keep up the good work!  *The poster went down well. The worksheet for the older children is probably best suited to 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> .					



### AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: DERRYLOGUE (optional)



Please circle your answer 1-5.

Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves &amp; provide an overview to ascertain knowledge &amp; ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
<b>Engagement</b>				
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
<b>Learning Outcome</b>				
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3	4 <u>5</u>
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	<u>3</u>	4 5
Can you explain your answer? <i>Class disaussion the next morning revealed that the workshop was discussed at home. Text from school to parents following workshop.</i>				
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	<u>3</u>	4 5
Any additional feedback would be great! 😊 <i>Very good workshop. Children were very engaged and it was suited to their age group.</i>				



### AgriKids Farm Safety Workshop Evaluation

School Name: St. Peres's NS (optional)

Please circle your answer 1-5.

Activity	No	Some	Yes	Very much	
Knowledge & ability of class assessed beforehand? <i>Did the presenter introduce themselves &amp; provide an overview to ascertain knowledge &amp; ability of the group.</i>	1	2	3	4	5
Content was relevant to topic and subject matter?	1	2	3	4	5
Delivery was appropriate for audience?	1	2	3	4	5
Were the tools and props used relevant to the content?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Engagement</b>					
Was there engagement with the children throughout?	1	2	3	4	5
Did the children respond favourably & with enthusiasm?	1	2	3	4	5
<b>Learning Outcome</b>					
Did the children discuss the workshop content afterwards?	1	2	3	4	5
Were the worksheets used that were left behind?	1	2	3	4	5
Is there evidence that the message was discussed in their homes?	1	2	3	4	5
Can you explain your answer? <i>Parents came to compliment us on having you here to talk to the children</i>					
Would you say awareness of farm safety has improved as a result of the workshop?	1	2	3	4	5
Any additional feedback would be great! 🍌  <i>Alma was a joy to have in our school. She had fantastic engagement with all of the children. It was a very useful exercise</i> <i>- Louise Lavin,</i>					



## Other projects in production

### AgriKids Farm Safe Roadshow

A bespoke promotional vehicle is currently undergoing refurbishment with view to being complete in Q1 2021.

Concept will be a first of its kind in Ireland and will ensure a consistent delivery of the AgriKids message at key community events and agriculture shows.

VEHICLE PROOF #03

Make: CITROEN Model: BOXBODY	Year: 2014 Colour: BLACK	Wheelbase: - Roof: -	Version: 03 Date: 28/02/2020	Company: AK Contact: ALMA JORDAN
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Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 0900 - 1700, Office hours: 0900 - 1700, Saturday/Sunday: Closed

### ‘Farm Safety Media Charter’ – Launch 2021

The Farm Safety Media Charter wants to promote a farm safe culture To ensure images used in media remain mindful of farm safety, a set of guidelines has been drafted to assist and support those working in media, advertising and PR. [www.fsmc.ie](http://www.fsmc.ie)

