

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE ANIMALS POLICY

Children learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. This may include contact with animals, either in the setting or on visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures *Animals in the Nursery/School as pets*

- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal to keep as a pet in the setting.
- We carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal.
- We make sure all regular health measures are up-to-date and recorded.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal.
- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of the owner and must be kept under control at all times.
- Parents must not bring dogs or other animals on site without prior agreement with Assistant Head, with responsibility for Early Years

Procedures *Visits to farms*

- Before a visit to a farm a risk assessment is carried out - this may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- The outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms are cleaned of mud and debris on return and should not be worn indoors.