

SAFEGUARDING & WELFARE REQUIREMENT: SAFETY & SUITABILITY OF PREMISES, ENVIRONMENT & EQUIPMENT

8.6 Animals in the Setting and Farm Visits



Policy Statement

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

Procedures

Animals in the setting as pets

- We seek permission from the Church elders before allowing animals into the setting.
- We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature 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 or creature.
- We provide suitable housing for the animal or creature 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 or creature.
- We register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming, are up-to-date and recorded.
- Children are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children wash their hands after handling the animal or creature and do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding.
- Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning housing or handling soiled bedding.
- If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children, they are the responsibility of their owner.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment, detailing how the animal or creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.

Animals brought in by visitors

- The owner of the animal/creature maintains responsibility for it in the setting.
- The owner carries out a risk assessment detailing how the animal/creature is to be handled and how any safety or hygiene issues will be addressed.
- No dogs on the Government's Banned Dogs list are to be brought on site at any time. All other dogs brought on site by parents during arrivals and departure times must be on a lead and under control. The manager reserves the right to request that a dog is not brought on site, if the animal appears to be out of control, or likely to pose a risk.

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.
- Our outings procedure is followed.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible and should not be worn indoors.
- We contact the venue in advance of the visit to ensure that there has been no recent outbreak of E.coli or other infections. If there has been an outbreak, we will review the visit and may decide to postpone it.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999)

Further guidance

- Health and Safety Regulation...A Short Guide (HSE 2003)
- Good Practice in Early Years Infection Control (Alliance 2009)

This policy was adopted at a meeting held by St John's Playtime Pre-school committee on 17th June 2009.

This policy was reviewed & updated on: May 2024

This policy will be reviewed again on: May 2025

Signed on behalf of the Management committee and provider:

Name of Signatory:

Julia Rael

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Rael', is shown on a light blue background.

Role of Signatory:

Committee Chairperson