

## Animals in the Pre-School

### **Policy Statement**

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

### **Procedures**

#### *Animals in the Pre-school as pets*

We take account of the views of parents and children when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting, as well as any allergies or issues that individual children may have any animals or creatures.

- ☞ We carry out a risk assessment accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by them.
- ☞ We provide suitable housing for them and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- ☞ Our staff are knowledgeable of the pet's welfare and dietary needs and ensure that the correct food is offered, at the right times.
- ☞ We make arrangements for holiday care for them.
- ☞ Children are taught correct care of them and are supervised.
- ☞ Children wash their hands after handling them.
- ☞ Staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning the tank.
- ☞ If animals or creatures are brought in by visitors to show the children they are the responsibility of the 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.

#### *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 is cleaned of mud and debris 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  
[www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/SI/si1999/19993242.htm)

**Further guidance** *Health and Safety Regulation...a short guide* (HSE 2003) [www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf](http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/hsc13.pdf)

**This policy was adopted at a meeting of Pickering Pre-School Playgroup held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.**

**Date to be reviewed – Before end of August 2024.**

**Signed on behalf of the management committee**

**Name of signatory – Richard Allenby (Chairperson).**