

St Marychurch Pre-school

Animals in the Setting Policy

Statement of intent

Children at St Marychurch Pre-school 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, or other living creatures, either in the setting or on visits.

Aim

We aim to ensure that sensible hygiene and safety controls are carried out whenever the children come into contact with such animals and living creatures.

Methods

Animals in the setting as pets

- Animals visiting the setting are free from disease and safe to be with children and do not pose a health risk and are the responsibility of the owner.
- The pet 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.
- We carry out a risk assessment for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We will 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.
- Children wash their hands after contact with animals.
- Children do not have contact with animal soil or soiled bedding and staff wear disposable gloves when cleaning out housing or handling soiled bedding, following hygiene standards.
- We check any known allergy details of all the children, these are recorded on each child's application form.
- We ensure children are taught correct handling and care of the animals or creatures and that they are supervised at all times.

Visits to farms

- A risk assessment is carried out before visiting a farm and may include taking into account the safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment which should be viewed.
- The outing 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.

Legal Framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Signed _____

Position Chairperson

Dated _____

We aim to provide a safe, stimulating, caring, happy Pre-school where all children and their families are welcome. We provide a curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage using individual children's interest and needs.