



A world in which Autism is celebrated.

Registered Charity No. 1152188

Health & Safety

20. Animals in the Setting.

Policy Statement

Children, young people and vulnerable adults learn about the natural world, its animals and other living creatures, as part of their wider education. This may include contact with animals, or other living creatures, either in the setting or in visits. We aim to ensure that this is in accordance with sensible hygiene and safety controls.

Procedures

- We would take account of the views of parents/carers, children, young people and vulnerable adults when selecting an animal or creature to keep as a pet in the setting.
- We would carry out a risk assessment with a knowledgeable person accounting for any hygiene or safety risks posed by the animal or creature.
- We would provide suitable housing for the animal or creature and ensure this is cleaned out regularly and is kept safely.
- We would ensure the correct food is offered at the right times.
- We would make arrangements for weekend and holiday care for the animal or creature.
- We would register with the local vet and take out appropriate pet care health insurance.
- We would make sure all vaccinations and other regular health measures, such as de-worming are up-to-date and recorded, and would make sure;
- Children, young people and vulnerable adults are taught correct handling and care of the animal or creature and are supervised.
- Children, young people and vulnerable adults 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, young people and vulnerable adults 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

Legal framework

- The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
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

This policy was adopted on

20th April 2015

Policy updated

July 2025

Date to be reviewed

April 2026

Signed on behalf of the management committee

Name of Signatory

Role of Signatory

Reviewed By	Date
Sue Carr	24 th April 2024
Sue Carr	12 th July 2025