




Hunnyhill Primary School

Date of Review	July 2022
Next Review Due	July 2024
Staff Responsibility	Headteacher
Responsibility FGB/Committee	FGB
Signed by Chair of Governors	

Animals In School Policy

Statement

The aim of this policy is to set out the rationale and procedures for animals coming to the school for educational purposes. It is an important part of both the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum and the National Curriculum that children have the opportunity to observe and understand other living things.

Most animals in school will be brought in by individual experts for a one-off lesson. On occasions however, small creatures will come to stay for a short while, for example, hatching eggs.

The specialist SEMH resourced provision will sometimes have a therapy dog timetabled to support pupils.

Procedures

The following procedures will be observed during contact with animals:

- Prior to a visit a risk assessment will be done or obtained from the visitor
- Parents will be informed of the visit and given the opportunity to raise any individual concerns.
- Children will be reminded of hygiene rules, washing hands etc. before the visit
- The advice of the expert concerning contact with the animal will be followed
- Staff will monitor children carefully during the visit to ensure hygiene recommendations are followed.
- Following the visit ALL children who took part will wash their hands regardless of whether or not they handled the animals.
- The area that the animals were in will have the tables wiped down and, if appropriate, the floor area mopped.
- Children will be reminded of hygiene rules before eating.
- When animals stay in school they will be sited away from any food storage and children will observe the hygiene rules above.

Controlled animal visits are enjoyed by the children and if the basic rules are followed then the risk is minimal.

The school does not allow any animals, even if carried, within the school boundaries unless specific permission has been obtained, such as for official Guide Dogs who are with their owner and working. The SEMH provision therapy dog is the only dog permitted on the school site. Some children may have allergies to animals or have a fear of them and should not encounter them on school grounds.