

Animal Health and Safety Policy and Procedure

Although we do not keep or allow animals into the building (except for guide dogs), we recognise that pets can help meet the emotional needs of children, young people and adults. Caring for pets also gives them the opportunity to learn how to be gentle and responsible for others and supports their learning and development.

In the Setting:

We may from time to time (funding permitted) introduce animals in the setting for example, reptiles or birds of prey etc. If we are planning an activity session that would include animals of any sort, we will ensure:

- Permission slips are obtained from parents to seek written permission for their child to be involved in caring for the animal during the activity session
- A full documented risk assessment is completed, including considerations for children and young people with any allergies
- We use reputable and experienced organisations to supply the animal/s, reptiles etc
- The animal is not allowed near food, dishes, worktops or food preparation areas. Children and young people will wash their hands with soap and water after handling animals, and will be encouraged not to place their hands in their mouths while animals are being handled. The staff will explain the importance of this to the children and young people.

Visits to farms

- A site visit must be made by a senior member of staff before an outing to a farm can be arranged. We check that the farm is well-managed, that the grounds and public areas are as clean as possible and that suitable first aid arrangements are made. Animals should be prohibited from any outdoor picnic areas
- We check that the farm has suitable washing facilities, appropriately signposted, with running water, soap and disposable towels or hot air hand dryers. Any portable water taps should be appropriately designed in a suitable area
- We will ensure that there is an adequate number of adults to supervise the children and young people, taking into account their ages and stage of development / abilities
- We will explain to the children that they will not be allowed to eat or drink anything, including crisps and sweets, or place their hands in their mouths, while touring the farm because of the risk of infection and explain why
- We will ensure suitable precautions are in place where appropriate e.g. in restricted areas such as near slurry pits or where animals are isolated.

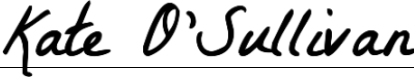
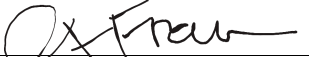
During the visit

- If children and young people are in contact with, or feeding animals, we will warn them not to place their faces against the animals or put their hands in their own mouths afterwards, and explain why
- After contact with animals and particularly before eating and drinking, we will ensure all children, young people, staff and volunteers wash and dry their hands thoroughly. If young children are in the group, hand washing will be supervised. We will always explain why the need to do this
- Meals, breaks or snacks will be taken well away from the areas where animals are kept and children will be warned not to eat anything which has fallen on the ground. Any crops produced on the farm will be thoroughly washed in portable water before consumption
- We will ensure children do not consume unpasteurised produce, e.g. milk or cheese
- Manure or slurry presents a particular risk of infection and children/young people will be warned against touching it. If they do touch it, we will ensure that they thoroughly wash and dry their hands immediately

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- We will ensure all children, young people, staff and volunteers wash their hands thoroughly before departure
- We will ensure footwear and clothing is as free as possible from faecal materials.

This policy was adopted on 15.05.2025 and will be reviewed on or before 15.05.2025

Name and Position	Signed	Date
Kate O'Sullivan Community Association Manager		19 / 06 / 2025
Olive Frances Vice Chair of Trustees		25 / 05 / 2025

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