



Animals in the Setting

Policy Statement

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

Procedures

Bringing Pets into Nursery for Learning Objectives

- The pet must have up-to-date vaccinations where appropriate.
- The pet must be appropriately insured.
- The pet must have regular health checks with a vet.
- The suitability of the animal must be considered before it is brought onto the premises, taking account of children's ages, allergies, fears, hygiene and safety.
- Banned or prohibited dog breeds are not permitted on the nursery premises.
- Animals must be supervised at all times when in contact with children and must not be left unattended with children.
- Staff must ensure that appropriate hygiene procedures are followed after children have handled animals.

Visits to Farms

- Before a visit to a farm, we carry out a risk assessment. This may take account of safety factors listed in the farm's own risk assessment, which should be viewed.
- 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 follow our outings procedure.
- Children wash and dry their hands thoroughly after contact with animals.
- Outdoor footwear worn to visit farms is cleaned of mud and debris as soon as possible on departure and should not be worn indoors.
- We advise staff and volunteers who are, or may be, pregnant to avoid contact with ewes and to consult their GP before the visit.

Prohibited Animals

For the safety and welfare of children, staff, volunteers and visitors, animals that are prohibited by law or considered unsuitable or unsafe for a nursery environment will not be brought onto or kept on the nursery premises. Banned dog breeds are not permitted on the premises.

Date reviewed: September 2026