



# Greatstone Primary School

## Pet Policy

Author(s):	Kate Bovingdon
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References:	<p>Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements.</p> <p>Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974.</p> <p>The Animal Welfare Act 2006.</p> <p>Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations.</p> <p>Local Authority Environmental Health Guidance.</p>
To be read in conjunction with	<p>Behaviour Policy</p> <p>Complaints Policy</p> <p>Accidents and Incident Policy</p> <p>Keeping Children Safe in Education</p> <p>Foundation Stage Policy</p>
Key contact personnel	<p>Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs Kay (Head of School), Mrs F Roberts (Deputy Headteacher) Hannah Ferris (Lead DSL), Kate Bovingdon (DSL and Early Years Lead/SENCo and named Governor with lead responsibility.</p>

## **Pet Policy**

### **Introduction**

Within our Early Learning Zone, we recognise the educational and emotional benefits of children learning about animals. We ensure that any animals on the premises are kept safely and hygienically, and that children's health, safety, and welfare remain our highest priority. The setting may keep small, low-risk animals such as fish, hamsters, gerbils, guinea pigs, tortoises and insects. Reptiles, dangerous animals, or animals requiring specialist care beyond staff expertise will not be kept. This policy is written in accordance with the statutory safeguarding and welfare requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

### **Our Aims and Values:**

- At Greatstone School and Nursery, we want children to have real life experiences and to explore the natural world with confidence. As part of our wider learning, we wish to celebrate our amazing world and for the children to meet some of the exciting creatures which inhabit it. This might mean that we have animals visiting the setting from time to time to deepen the learning and excite the children to explore their own thinking and learning more. We aim to:
  - Promote children's understanding of the natural world.
  - Teach children how to treat animals with care and respect.
  - Maintain high standards of hygiene and infection control.
  - Ensure the welfare of any animals kept on site.
  - Protect children and staff from health risks including allergies, bites, scratches and infections.

### **Hygiene and Infection Control**

Children must wash hands before and after touching animals. Animals will not be allowed in food preparation or eating areas. Cleaning equipment will be stored separately from kitchen equipment. Animal waste will be disposed of hygienically and immediately. Staff will supervise all animal interactions.

### **Animal Welfare**

Animals will be provided with a suitable environment, appropriate diet and fresh water, regular cleaning of enclosures, and protection from pain, suffering and disease. Veterinary care will be sought where required.

### **Staff Responsibilities**

A designated Animal Lead or the owner of the animals will oversee care routines, maintain cleaning schedules, ensure vaccinations are up to date (where applicable), monitor children's interactions, and maintain risk assessments and incident records. All staff must follow hygiene procedures and report concerns immediately.

**Managing Incidents**

In the event of bites or scratches, wounds will be cleaned immediately, first aid administered, parents informed, and the incident recorded. In the event of an allergic reaction, the child's care plan will be followed and emergency services contacted if required. Risk assessments will be reviewed following any incident.

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